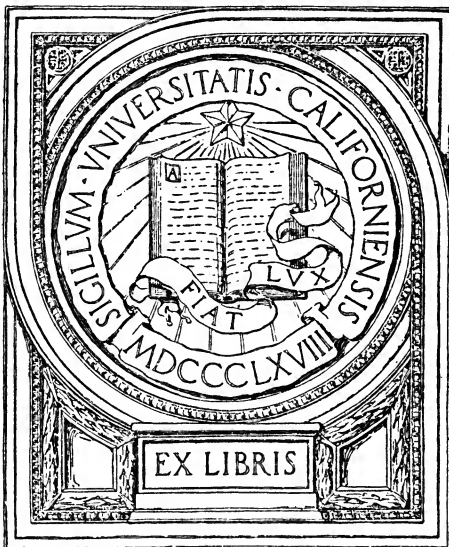




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IRISH  
POEMS AND LEGENDS;

HISTORICAL AND TRADITIONAL,

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

BY THOMAS C. IRWIN.

---

GLASGOW: CAMERON & FERGUSON,  
88 WEST NILE STREET.

L18697

TO MR  
AND MRS

Mulhern Donation

GLASGOW:  
DUNN AND WRIGHT,  
PRINTERS.

I Dedicate  
THIS BOOK

07

IRISH BALLADS, SKETCHES, AND SONGS,

TO MY COUNTRYMEN, .

NATIVE AND EMIGRANT.

764904

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## PREFACE.

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THIS volume commences with a few legendary Ballads illustrative of the successive periods of ancient Irish History, Pagan and Christian. Ballads on general subjects follow; and to these succeed Songs, Sketches, and Poems, which reflect, however imperfectly, the feelings and scenery of the Race and Land. As political themes—not being very capable of poetic treatment—do not enter into the composition of this book, it may be trusted that it will be acceptable to *all* classes who read Irish or English verses. Of mine, the public will form an estimate, favourable or the reverse. Of the cost at which the book is presented, there can be no difference of opinion; as one which contains nearly six thousand lines of Original Poetry for Sixpence or One Shilling, according as it is sold in paper or bound, may challenge comparison with even the cheapest American reproductions of British literature. As the object of the Publishers, Messrs. CAMERON & FERGUSON, is to adapt a volume of Irish

Poetry to the means of even the poorest of the intellectual classes of those Islands and the Colonies, it is to be hoped that the richer classes will not—before perusal—estimate its literary merits by its cost. Just now Manchester outsells the world, and Glasgow bids fair to compete with Manchester in “prints” of another description.

T. C. I.

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# IRISH BALLADS,

SKETCHES, AND SONGS,

BY

THOMAS C. IRWIN.

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WITH ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES

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FROM ASIA TO ERIE.

*Old Colonizing Days—(Pagan' Period.)*

MILETUS—I.

GOLDEN evening fronted the Carian coast—many citted and  
villaged;  
A land of white shores and mountains blue, and broad plains  
wooded and tillaged;  
From the roofs of the blossomed chesnuts deep, and sycamores  
of the valley,  
O'er hollow and slope the numerous nightingales were beginning  
to rally,  
While other birds surceased their song, awakening amid  
the glory,  
To chant in a stillness, all their own, their emulous evening  
story,  
From cape to cape, in the radiant calm, exuberant and  
unceasing,  
Like palpitant waves of a fresh spring tide multitudinously  
increasing.  
Rose hues bathed the Messogian summits and lawns, where,  
sheep surrounded,  
Lay the herdsmen under the foliage; and as the low sun  
rounded,  
Flaming across the azure Asian sea and its islands famous—  
Green Ikariá, Patmos, Cos to the west, and northward Samos  
Stretching steep headlands into the glow—circled by many  
an harbour,  
Along the leafy hills to the south, Miletus' city and harbour  
Was seen, with temples white, and mole by vessels  
numerous masted  
O'ertopp'd—all the black sails up-clewed that Boreas often  
had blasted

When vapours of the thundering pole, from the Euxine  
were rolling grey on,  
And tempest scudded the foam of the swollen tenebrous  
Aegean.

But, lustrous level were now the waters; by curved shores  
yellow sanded

The wave worn fisher vessels in lines beyond the sprays were  
stranded;

While by the smoky hall of a house above a grassy  
meadow

A sea coast group sat under the stoney porch's sheltering  
shadow;

Young men and old, maids, children, wives, to an aged  
mariner listening,

Who spake with grave face, grey as the sea, and eyes under  
grey brows glistening:—

“Yea, friends, at length the season has come when the  
sailing stars invite us

To seek new regions, whither the winds may carry, or thy  
will, light us;

To-morrow Milesus, king of men, with a colony of three  
hundred,

Will leave the city haven there, and, with omen good—for it  
thundered

As the priest was offering sacrifice to Neptune—the earth  
shaker

Upon the prow of our loftest barque, and the captain has  
vowed to take her

With the other nine Biremes of the fleet, out into the  
western ocean,

Even to Hyperborean skies, beneath which, he has a  
notion,

Earned from some mariners of Phœnice, that an Island,  
grassy and spacious,

Projects to the south of the winter heaven of shadow, its  
regions gracious,

Wherein wild cattle abundant feed—where lake and river  
are teaming

With fish, as its sheltered shores, with flocks of fowl in-  
numerate screaming;

And where, 'tis said, are scattered a few dull barbarous Men  
of Cattle,

Slaves to a tribe from the north of the sunset land, o'ercome  
in battle;

And these we doubt not to subdue, and awe from barbarous  
pillage

By force of arms and minds, and mould them into servants of  
tillage;

For the law of the gods is this—that the boor must yield to  
superior races,  
Even as the savage hunter clears the earth of the wild beasts'  
traces.

Then say, friends, which of your strong sons here will join  
our expedition,  
Of whose success the oracle yonder tells the holy tradition."

Then one arose and said—"Lo! I, Heremon, and my  
brother,  
Eru, will take the voyage;" and hushed were the group, nor  
spake another,

Until the young sea hero's sister fair and their aged mother  
Brake into sobs: for a while so still was the place, th' stream  
that tinkled

Under the cliff was heard. Then the weeping woman, her  
forehead wrinkled,

Raising from out her robe, said sadly:—"Sons, whom I've  
nursed and tended,

I thought with me you still would abide until my years were  
ended;

But now you desire to scatter my hopes of happy home and  
daughters

Duteous and fruitful, by adventuring forth upon mighty  
waters

Known to gods only;—whence I may never see you again  
returning,

Never again your voices hear, when the winter hearth is  
burning;

Or in the fields of spring and autumn, or through the twilight  
rowing

With boats fish-full to the creek beneath, when Hesperus is  
glowing;

Yet, ne'erless sons of mine, youth's days are those shaped  
for adventure,

Go, if ye will, nor from your parents expect reproach or  
censure—

The gods will guard ye—but, 'tis hard to part"—no more  
she uttered,

While eager to course the seas remote, the youths together  
muttered,

Yet rose when they saw that mother weeping, and kissed  
her forehead, crying,

Clear voiced—"Too full of life are you, our mother, to think  
of dying,

Many a year's to come for you no less than us; but the  
ocean

Draws all the youths away from this coast who take delight  
in motion

Upon its bosom—why then should we remain at home to  
 wither  
 Like unto trees rooted in rock, when the vastness draws us  
 thither,  
 To add new lands to those now known, and spread, whatever  
 befate us,  
 Even to the isles where rest the stars, the glory of our  
 Miletus,  
 Which long has covered the north sea's coasts with cities—  
 Tomi, Cercæus,  
 Odessus, Opollonia grand, rich Sinope and Trapezus;  
 And such, even by the northern foam, we sons of the east  
 will raise us.  
 But fear not that, in day no more we'll meet, but in Hades  
 only,  
 Or that your lives, dear parents, will descend to winter lonely,  
 We on the waves unseen: not so; familiar now with the  
 heaven,  
 The orbs, the winds, wherever about the seas we may be  
 driven,  
 Though all inhabited lands had sunk in the roaring ocean  
 sunward,  
 And our ships through the snow-drift's blinding sheet, by  
 the pole sailed stormily onward,  
 Our sure return expect, when some few hundred suns have  
 faded,  
 Or furthest, when spring greens the hills that winter thrice  
 has shaded;—  
 May chance, with blocks of solid gold our shining poops upon  
 set,  
 Great deeds to tell, and wondrous tales of lands beyond the  
 sunset."

#### THE DEPARTURE—II.

Next morn, when o'er Miletus' city the bright Opoll was  
 soaring  
 In splendour, harbourward an eager multitude came pouring  
 Down the steep streets to the huge sea wall piled loftily over  
 the dashing  
 Billows, and from the Meander's wave past wooded villages  
 flashing;  
 In skiffs, too, from the haven's isles, Perne, green shored and  
 shady  
 Dronicus fronting the offing's tumbling surge, and clear  
 springed Lade,  
 To see the colony under its chief, sail forth for the unknown  
 regions  
 Beyond where the Cynese dwell, and the Cletæh marshal  
 their legions;

And thronged was every house-top soon with people cheering  
 and hailing  
 Their friends upon the waves; and a shout of mingled acclaim  
 and wailing  
 Rung through the glare, as the curved vessels rounding  
 seaward surged  
 By the lighthouse tower, with beat of oars through the  
 breezy azure urged.  
 And when the chaunt of the sacrifice, the priestesses  
 gathered together  
 Round the old altar on the mole, had offered for fair  
 weather,  
 And the last prayer to the winds had ceased—in the sacred  
 hush that followed  
 Those nearest the fleet on the promont's end the waves in  
 caves had hollowed,  
 For a while could hear the bleat of the sheep in the holds of  
 the vessels blending,  
 With the cries of the women and girls on the decks and over  
 the high sterns bending;  
 Seeing the waters widen between the ships, and their dear  
 homes growing  
 Dimmer and dimmer on city and shore, as the land wind  
 freshlier blowing  
 Bellied the stiff skin sails; while along the bay's marge  
 auburn sanded,  
 Running in crowds to look their last, and wave adieus white-  
 handed—  
 Women, Ionian, Celtic, Carian, gathered, praying and  
 weeping  
 For their sea lovers, sons and brothers, close to the blue  
 wave sweeping  
 Its chill sprays over their sandalled feet; their robes of various  
 tincture  
 Blown backward like their yellow hair and bosoms' loosened  
 cincture;  
 And some screamed shrill to the dwindling faces, and others  
 overwhelmed  
 With sorrow mutely dropp'd their tears in the brine, as the  
 lofty helmed  
 Vessels sunk down the windy bay, and along the golden low  
 line  
 Of sunset, had become as small as a scarce distinguished  
 crow line.  
 And still from the city's towers some watched the black  
 fleet westward sailing;  
 But, ere the night o'erhung the deep, and those shores of  
 loss and wailing,

The city returned to its works and pleasures—the streets  
 were full of clamour,  
 Again rung the armourer's shops with the chink of metal and  
 and beat of hammer.  
 In the troughs of colour the dyer steeped the long soft sunny  
 fleeces,  
 At the looms the women spun the cloths, and cut them in  
 purple pieces  
 For the needle of the embroiderer to fashion in costly ap-  
 parel,  
 Elaborate with device of silk, sardonix, silver, and beryl;  
 With worshippers filled the twilight temples, whither, offer-  
 ings varied,  
 Meats and drinks, roses and fruits for the gods, by many  
 were carried;  
 And feasted the rich town folk in their chambers opening  
 airily over  
 The sea. At the city gates sung the bards, while white-  
 robed girl and lover,  
 Under the starry roof of the plane trees skirting the full  
 volumed river,  
 Whispering, wandered, or danced, as the moon on the current  
 began to quiver;  
 While down the windy sea-skies rounding in circles never  
 ending,  
 Of undulant water and azure air, the voyagers westward  
 tending  
 Followed the sun that followed them; and new moons over  
 the mountains  
 Grew full, or dwindling at midnight set on the groups by the  
 sacred fountains.  
 And year followed year, and the Pleiads thrice in the spring  
 skies rose,—but never  
 Again returned those ten black barques to Miletus city and  
 river.

#### THE VOYAGE.—III.

Westward they steadily cleft the seas, at morn past sunny  
 islands  
 Their steep shores ranged with hamlets white under um-  
 brageous highlands  
 By temples top'd, whence waterfalls like threads of silver  
 quivered,  
 Down the oak-clothed heights to the verdant valleys, shining  
 rivered,  
 Where, in the golden spreading glow, from cottage roof and  
 from altar,  
 Straight rose the smoke till its slender azure pillar appeared  
 to falter

In air from leafy steep to steep like hanging hazy bridges ;—  
 By headlands where the lazy billow tumbled along the ridges  
 Of grey cliff overhung by clambering pale sea vine and  
   sedges,  
 And then the land was lost, and then it re-appeared and  
   faded;  
 And now the wind dropp'd to a calm o'er the heaving waste  
   o'ershaded;  
 And again was seen the sombre wave mounting the steep  
   cape foamy,  
 And shadowing gusts swept down from the north, that far  
   away grew gloomy,  
 Crossed by dark horizontal clouds, boding a breeze sail  
   shaking,  
 When night had fallen, and the hatches were closed, and the  
   wave-strained timbers aching.

Thus many a day those black ships voyaged, by storms dis-  
   astrous scattered—  
 On populous coasts refitting in haste their sea gear, billow-  
   shattered—  
 Between far blustering Thrace and the realms beneath whose  
   cloudland sad is  
 The black-jawed mountain barrier leading down to returnless  
   Hades;  
 And, south, the night-dark Ethiop nations past the desert  
   sea line  
 And the Lotus eaters, dreamily girt from the world by their  
   giant tree line.  
 Thus sailed those guests of the void by lengths of living  
   lands, in sightless  
 Distance sunk, whence zephyrs breathe from the wat'ry  
   heavens nightless;  
 Or, where from earth's Cimmerian north the cold broad winds  
   Borean  
 Blow under Bootes hung in gloomy blue, their hybernal  
   pæan;  
 Driven through the wilderness of foam and darkness, or  
   with dawning  
 Making some bay where bubbled the pure spring under its  
   olive awning;  
 Till at length the summits of Afric and Iberia, cloud sur-  
   rounded,  
 World against world frowned, over the Ocean plummet never  
   sounded,  
 Into whose starry vagueness suddenly by a storm they were  
   carried,  
 And, for a time, where distance itself had vanished, furiously  
   hurried.

Then fear on them fell, for that shoreless waste they deemed  
 a thing supernal—  
 The all-encompassing infinite of waters grey and eternal—  
 Awful as an unknown God in the day and the dark it seemed  
 Even when they hugged the winding coast and the cheerful  
 sunlight beamed—  
 Immensity primeval, home of storms and invisible powers,—  
 Space where the isles divine of sunset open their valleys of  
 flowers,  
 Viewed but a moment as in a dream, and faint as through  
 summer showers—  
 White beeches smiling with purple shells beneath elysian  
 woodlands,  
 Rivulets faint as the voices sweet that swoon from those  
 golden flood sands;  
 Whence, on the azure calm came floating ambrosial boughs,  
 but rarely  
 Seen by the mariner at the helm in the death still morning  
 early,  
 Weighed with celestial fruitage cold, rounded in sunset's  
 blushes,  
 Dropp'd from immortal arbourage, golden, wet, enchanted,  
 luscious,  
 Whose sweetness who can taste, may count on fortunate  
 days, with ending  
 Soft as Hesperian twilight into the starry waters blending.

Thus, dauntless purposed, they sailed to the unknown north,  
 by winds befriended  
 Through dangers many on sea and shore, until that voyage  
 ended  
 On the southern coasts of a spacious Isle with deep blue bays  
 serrated,  
 Amid whose grassy plains of cattle and forests green it was  
 fated  
 Their lives should pass in a rainbow clime of showery airs  
 and sunny,  
 Where the fields abounded with milk, the rivers with fish,  
 the oaks with honey;  
 Where they were destined to teach its race the arts of the  
 Celtic nation,  
 That long had forgotten their wandering days in an Asian  
 civilization;  
 And, far from the sunrise, lay their bones for ever on stony  
 pillows,  
 Under the northern stars, beside the long Atlantic billows.



## EODGA AND MUGHA.

*(Pagan Period, about 68 A.D.)*

## I.

A TALE of the times of old: in Erie, the noblest isle of the  
 north,  
 Which spreads its ample expanse of turf to the circling  
 foam of the main,  
 Where the mountains rise, like kings of the past, and the  
 rivers flowing forth  
 From their showery crests, make rich with their waters,  
 the kine-abounding plain,  
 Where the woods that give our slave-race shelter, in sun-  
 heat and storm and rain,  
 Yield up their loftiest oak and beech, for our palace walls  
 and halls,  
 For the multitudinous fleets of chieftains, many-oared and  
 strong,  
 High-built o'er the wave, with their warrior-rooms, wine-  
 stores and cattle-stalls,  
 To breast the surge of the swollen seas, whenever the  
 mandate calls  
 The hosts to the plunder of sightless shores, or avenge a  
 monarch's wrong.—  
 Here are lands of white mantles and thronging spears, where  
 hospitably gleams,  
 The fortress fair, and the castle's fire, by the salmon-abound-  
 ing streams.  
 Here are headlands high, whence flames at night the beacon,  
 far on the brine;  
 Blue bays, where at anchor frequent float the foreign fleets of  
 wine,  
 And valleys of music, where Scolaidhe's bards, in times  
 succeeding wars,  
 Attune their golden harps in the leaves, 'mid the twinkle of  
 tranquil stars;  
 Here are harbours many, and deep and secure, whencever the  
 tempests blow;  
 Strong trench'd mansions and plains of cattle, milk and  
 honey, and mead, galore;  
 Here yearly, twice the flocks increase, twice with apples the  
 orchards groan,  
 Here circles perpetual April fresh, and summer in months not  
 her own;  
 And a puissant race, renowned no less for song than the  
 spear and bow,  
 Sons of the Sun—they worship, hold the land from shore to  
 shore.

## II.

'Twas the time when Guyon the Wise had died, and his  
 people had raised him a mound,  
 Whose high green slope is seen but a league from the stately  
 roofs of Tara,  
 Where, shining through banks of grass, and groves of sweet  
 beech murmuring round,  
 Flows to the sea, by village and rath, the clear-waved  
 Fionuara.  
 King Guyon, whose reign was calm as a day at the plente-  
 ous time of the year—  
 When folk say summer looks over its shoulder, had left  
 two princely sons,  
 Eodga the fair, and Mugha the black; to him they were  
 equally dear,  
 Though save in valour, different each as the thin swift  
 ashen spear,  
 That sightlessly whistling, pierces to death; and the heavy  
 mace that stuns;  
 And the King had given his lands unto them, with equal  
 division of all  
 His ample riches; valleys of swift-footed horses, tracts of  
 corn,  
 Tracts of cattle, rivers of fish, and shadowing woodlands tall,  
 With herds of fat, slow moving swine, in the glens of oak  
 and thorn,  
 Watched by huge serfs, the slow heavy men of the Fear Bolg  
 —conquered of yore;  
 Stables of chariots for battle and travel, and hosts of martial  
 men  
 In iron armed, from the foot to the breast, and the glittering  
 helms they wore;  
 Of spinning handmaidens, each thrice seven; of attendants  
 ten times ten,  
 And numberless chests of garments—many-coloured, cloaks  
 of white  
 And robes of purple, yellow, green, and silver,—foreign attire,  
 Girdles and collars and brooches, and as befitted their might  
 And noble birth, two jewelled swords, and crowns that  
 gleamed like fire.

## III.

Though the seed of a calm, wise, chief, both Eodga and  
 Mugha were practised in war,  
 For to Leogir both, while beardless yet, had voyaged over  
 the sea,  
 When the great Buadice, assembling the mountain nations  
 of Albin, as yet free,

Came down like a storm on the Romans, and sunk, alas !  
 with her star :  
 Had engaged, too, in many a knightly encounter, in Eric  
 here at home ;  
 From the cold grey hills of Ulida, down to Leath Mogha, the  
 warm and green,  
 And in raids from the friendly sea of the South to the Isles,  
 of the Whales in the foam,  
 Where their long victorious black battle barques were a  
 many times seen ;  
 And 'twas there in a war with the fierce strong-boned  
 painted men of that coast,  
 Of the deadly whirl-tide, snow-storm, and fog, that contend-  
 ing on shore and billow,  
 Eodga cleft down to the breast the great Loarm, at the head  
 of his roaring host,—  
 And Mugha, with one mighty blow, in his armour, crushed  
 Sitric Forillo.  
 Many a wide land echoed the fame of those thunderbolts of war ;  
 The wolves of the fastness followed their track, and the  
 eagles knew them from far ;  
 Nor ever came either from foray or battle, without some  
 trophy of power,  
 Tributes of cattle, of maids and slaves, and ship loads of armour  
 bright,  
 Or the tall spear, strung with their enemies' sanguined skulls  
 —a vociferous sight  
 To the thronged shores, where they landed by day or by red  
 torch light.—  
 And those skulls grace the flaming temple of Crom, at Magh  
 Sleacht, to this very hour.

## IV.

For a year those heroes lived on their lands, nor adventured  
 in any strife,  
 But passed their days in sport with their tribes, in matches  
 of swimming and bole,  
 In the race of horses, the play of tables ; and in all they were  
 kings of life,  
 Likewise, in the fight of winged resounding speech that  
 conquers the soul ;  
 But, though many a maiden thronged their courts, the  
 loveliest in the land,—  
 For there was Blathnaid, sweet as a rose, and Fionola of the  
 shoulders of snow,  
 Murgel, with breast like the pure sunn'd spray, and Orflath  
 wealthy in land,  
 And pleasant Feithfaile, whose words and whose song were  
 smooth as the river's flow ;

Yet never till rare Lassairfhina appeared like the dawn's  
 red cloud on the billow,  
 When the sea breathes music, and morn's star shines with a  
 secret and lovesome glow,  
 Did Eodga or Mugha e'er sigh for the light of a woman's  
 smile on the pillow—  
 Albeit this beauty was daughter of Irrah—once Guyon's  
 deadliest foe.

## V.

Her form in its sleepy luxurious smoothness and beauty of  
 mould  
 Resembled the rainbow-hued snake in the meadows of sun-  
 heated grass,  
 That gliding indrawn with coy graces, half-hidden, appears  
 as you pass,  
 Now tempting and blithe in retreating, now beauteously  
 bold ;  
 Her eyes were like jewels of magic, whose meaning no soul  
 can divine ;  
 On her mouth was the bloom of the midsummer rose, and the  
 warm red gold  
 Of her plenteous autumn of odorous hair, whether floating  
 like wings  
 Of the morning, when loosed to the wind of the chase, or  
 enshiningly rolled  
 O'er her forehead, as fair as the spring sea's foam, but as  
 false as a wave,  
 Cherished love in each amorous wreath, and love's cunning  
 in every twine ;  
 Her motion was soft as low music, her voice like the music  
 of strings,  
 While her converse alluring and sweet, whether joyous, soft,  
 subtle or grave,  
 Caught the soul of each listener, and fired every pulse like  
 the spirit of wine.

## VI.

Short time had elapsed since the coming of rare Lassairfhina  
 to court,  
 When first great Eodga, and then mighty Mugha, felt stricken  
 with love to the core.  
 Their attendants remarked how indifferent both had become  
 to the pleasures of sport,  
 Such as chieftains delight in ; how careless of all save the  
 sumptuous garments they wore ;

That their exploits of strength were forgotten, and nothing  
 attracted them now but the song  
 Of the bard in the sunny soft chamber of women, or bower by  
 the orchard's clear stream;  
 That both, grown unwontedly silent, delighting in solitude,  
 wandered along  
 By wild ways and silent, by day and by night, like men in  
 whose bosoms a wrong  
 Burns smouldering ever, dividing them off from their kind,  
 as in fear,  
 Lest any discover the purpose they nursed, till occasion of  
 vengeance were near.  
 But keener eyes seeing how each, as with pain seemed avoid-  
 ing the other  
 When they chanced to encounter abroad, or at feast in the  
 hall, and who saw  
 How they were enraptured with rare *Lassairfhua*, whose  
 words were their law,  
 Soon discovered the subtle enchantress, to either had made  
 herself dear,  
 And that love so enkindled, had wakened in secret, the  
 hatred of brother for brother.  
 Then it came to be known to the listening slaves, that each  
 chieftain had asked her as wife—  
 Seeking occasion alone; while the blue-veined beauty, as  
 cunning as bold,  
 Seemed affected to both, though when present with both,  
 appeared charmingly, carelessly cold;  
 And all saw in the challenge of secret hot passion, thus fronted,  
 implacable strife.

## VII.

It happened one day, when they'd ridden by separate ways  
 with their bands,  
 To the chase, on the western frontier, which marked their  
 division of lands,  
 That a great elk and swift, through a forest way starting,  
 was seen of them then,  
 And for many a mile in a gallop, they followed his horns  
 with their men,  
 Until, sudden as fish sinks, the beast disappeared in a glen,  
 leaving all  
 The hunters at bay, in confusion, well wearied, and ruffled  
 with gall  
 At his loss; while the hounds keenest scented, yelped round  
 them in piteous rage,  
 Sore grieved and wild, as a bird flock that beats at the bars  
 of a cage.

So the companies rode on together, until they came out of the  
 glen,  
 And the broad-rivered plain spread around them, all dotted  
 with cattle and men,  
 Where the women were cutting the rushes, for couches, along  
 the green streams;  
 Where the naked slaves bound the red sheaves of the corn in  
 the sinking sun's beams;  
 Where the tall shepherds stretched under trees in the  
 meadows, because of the heat,  
 And panted the sheep and the horses with drought in the  
 hollows of peat.

## VIII.

Two moons, it was said, had grown dim in the sky since the  
 chiefs had exchanged,  
 Save in trivial words, their dark minds, so averse had they  
 grown, and estranged;  
 And their trains felt a dubious joy, when they saw them  
 once more side by side  
 Pide palaceward; until they heard fierce Eodga cry—"She  
 is *my* bride."  
 While Mugha, whose brow had grown wrathful and som-  
 brous, drew rein on his horse,  
 And fronting its head to Eodga's, had suddenly stopped on  
 the gorse.  
 Then as round them their men gathered, seeing the hour  
 long expected had come,  
 And while some of them murmured in whispers, and others  
 held dumb,  
 Eodga, uncovering his forehead, and pointing away to the sun,  
 Called out to both trains to be witness of what should be said  
 to be done.  
 Then spake to his brother—"Now, Mugha, my brother, all  
 vain are the arts  
 By which men loving both the one woman as we, seek to  
 smother their hearts;  
 From our youth upward, even till now, you and I, who are  
 fruit of one womb,  
 Together have sported, together have voyaged, together have  
 fought side by side,  
 While the ghosts of our ancestors looked from the clouds o'er  
 our combats on plain and on tide;  
 And we held it a hope and a truth that in time we should  
 rest in the self-same tomb;  
 But another fate that we guessed not of has now fallen  
 between us twain,  
 Until each has become in the sight of the other a sight of  
 wrath and of pain;

For the beauty and soul of this maiden we love, like some  
 magical spell  
 Has broken our faith in each other, and broken our past lives  
 as well.  
 I love Lassairfhina, whose blood beats to mine as her breath  
 to my breath,  
 And no man and no god of the land shall prevent her being  
 mine, soul and body, save Death.  
 Yield up, then, this maiden to me as my own, and, in lieu,  
 take all manifold things  
 I hold here in Erie, possessions and riches bequeathed by our  
 long race of kings;  
 Then peace and then love shall be ours, and our lives shall  
 be bright as they were in the hour  
 When our grey father, Guyon, departing, decreed us the  
 equal heirs of his power.  
 If not, there's but one way for us, Mugha, for mine shall  
 this maiden be  
 If I live:—or if another's bride, 'twill be his that shall die  
 with me."

His words ceased in foam on his lips; white and fixed as fate  
 was his face,  
 White and fixed was Mugha's also, in which love was usurped  
 by hot hate,  
 And as like seemed those furious chiefs as the figures of  
 rock at the gate  
 Of their palace, by Alabrha carved. Then cried Mugha,  
 whose hand on his mace  
 Showed each knuckle bone white, and of every sinew the  
 strong rigid trace.

"Eodga, as we two are brothers whose love for one maid  
 Has awakened a hate that alone in hot blood can be  
 layed,  
 Few words will suffice. I have but to repeat the same words  
 which you said:  
 I love Lassairfhina, whose heart beats to mine as her breath  
 to my breath,  
 And no man and no god of the land shall prevent her being  
 mine, saving Death.  
 If, instead of the wealth you would buy her of me with, its  
 store  
 Were as broad as the earth, and as deep as the sea at its  
 ultimate shore,  
 It would weigh in the scale of my purpose more light than  
 the down  
 Of yon thistle—more worthless than one drop of rain on the  
 gold of my crown.

So, as you offer insult, in insult I offer alike for her hand—  
 And all will be smooth again with us—my wealth and my  
     power and my land,—  
 But I see that your hatred grows stronger as stronger waxed  
     mine  
 When you spake; and, behold! the great Sun-God descends  
     to the brine,  
 Look your last on his glory, Eodga, as I maychance do,  
 For I swear by his splendour, I swear by my valour, I swear  
     by this isle and our race,  
 Of which, like the last lonely oaks of a great wood we're left,  
     that his face  
 One or other no more shall behold 'till this anger is quenched  
     'twixt us two."

## IX.

Thus Mughra retorted his wrath to Eodga enraged;  
 And the multitude, moved like an ocean in tempest or fleet  
     in a gale,  
 Some crimson with rivalrous anger, and some very pale,  
 Roared out to the Sun that by iron alone could their wrath  
     be assuaged.  
 First the brethren glanced at each other, then pointed away  
     to the west,  
 Where rose the grey hills in whose bosom a deep lake lay  
     deadly and still,  
 And without other word rode away from the place to the  
     place they thought best  
 To decide unappeasable fury; the while their numerous  
     train  
 Silent also, in groups took their way to their dwellings of  
     rest,  
 Leaving each to revenge on the other, as fate should decide  
     it, his will.  
 'Twas sunset: and as the two, passing the broad sweeping  
     kine-covered meadows,  
 And ford by the river, ascended the steep rocky hill-side, the  
     shadows  
 Grew deeper, and gleamed on the black lake a moon in the  
     wane.

## X.

At length when they came to a bare open space, where the  
     gloomy hills round  
 Cast their shade on the deep quiet waters, they sprang from  
     their steeds on the ground.  
 Next instant, their brands in the moon shimmered lightnings  
     amid the dark air,  
 And rang the harsh echoes of blow upon blow through the  
     arid rocks there.



But though wild with fierce hatred, and fired with fierce  
 hope, each of gaining his prize,  
 Yet, so mightily matched were those leaders of battle in  
 practice and strength,  
 That the combat hung bloodless, while sword turned on  
 sword, eyes to eyes  
 Flashed their quick fires; like keen angry eagles that circling  
 wheel through the skies  
 Near and nearer, till plunging together they tear out their  
 heart's gore. At length  
 Both their heavy swords sprang into fragments :—Then came  
 a dread pause,  
 That seemed for a moment to balance the love and the wrath  
 of this cause;  
 For something of anguish gleamed ghastly from either's pale  
 cheek  
 As they saw, like a smile from the dead, in their faces their  
 mother's face meek,  
 Which, despite of their fury, made both for a second's space  
 trembling and weak,  
 And each to each other, in strong sudden kindness seemed  
 moved to speak,  
 When the rocky path rung with the trampling tread of a  
 horse, and the night with a shriek,  
 And the fair Lassairhina, more lovely and fell than that  
 fiend of the brine  
 That springs up from the depths to the shipwrecked, and  
 swimming with sleek eyes that shine  
 With ruth, clasps and drags him below—stood before them  
 and cried,—“His am I  
 “Who in combat shall win me, and who for my beauty dare die!”  
 As when in some loud crashing storm of the night comes a  
 lull, when you hear  
 The woods only quiver their boughs, and the dim sea moan drear,  
 Till the red beauteous lightning gleams fearfully, signalling on  
 The thundering powers of the tempest, and the force of the  
 rage that was gone  
 Rushes back on the world, where the frowning clouds bury  
 once more  
 The stars, and the maddened woods roar, and the mighty  
 sea tramples the shore,  
 So the chiefs, when they saw the fell beauty accursed,  
 breathing deep,  
 Blind with fury, love maddened, rewapp'd in the storm of  
 their hate,  
 Rushed together once more with a hunger death only could sate,  
 And clasped in one mighty last writhing embrace, reeling  
 over the steep

That was higher than fifty tall oaks, and as straight as a  
 spear,  
 Plunged and sunk down for ever in the fathomless depths of  
 the meer;  
 While the fierce Lassairfhina, who watched from the cliff  
 till she saw they were dead,  
 Rode away to the realm of her kindred—her love vented ven-  
 geance thus sped,  
 Crying, "Irrah, my father, King Guyon once wrought you a  
 wrong years ago,  
 And instead of an army you sent me with beauty to combat  
 your foe,  
 And behold, with love's weapons alone have I wiped out  
 your woe,  
 And dead in the depths of the lake the last heirs of his throne  
 have laid low!"

Thus perished Eodga and Mugha, the mightiest chiefs of  
 their time.

Lassairfhina was blasted with lightning, 'twas said, but a  
 month from that night.

So vanish the lives of the greatest and fairest, like dim  
 changing clouds of the height,  
 Like the leaves on the wind,—like the song of a bard:—I  
 have ended my rhyme.

## THE LEGEND OF DIORTHA, THE BARD.

### I.

FROM noonday to dark had the fields of Gno Beag and Gno  
 More

Been covered with dead and with wounded, and deluged with  
 gore,

In the battle that Guaire Aidhne fought with Flaithbeartach  
 the Famed,

Till, with hardly a thousand, he fled along Orbsen's grey shore,

To the woods for a rest and a rally. In Guaire Aidhne's  
 force

Was Diortha the bard; to the foe, by his helm and his horse,  
 Ever known fighting foremost, till his steed, by an arrow  
 well aimed,

From a fugitive handful in ambush, sunk dead in a gorse,

Whom he followed on foot, slaying some; for, if stricken in  
 years,

None rivalled the warrior poet in the combat of spears,

Save Imligh, his son, who, though lost to his eyes in the  
fight,  
Was too mighty a sworder to waken his fatherly fears :

So, his blood still with victory afire, waving wild his red  
brand,  
He, the enemy flying, pursued through the forests near hand,  
In whose branches a tempest, arisen with the fall of the  
night,  
Drowned the wounded's drear moan and the cries of each  
conquering band.

At length, when he'd come to a place where the night's cloudy  
frown  
Was doubled in shade by the horrent wood's gloomiest crown,  
Of a sudden a figure sprang out 'twixt the boughs—but as  
soon  
Sprang Diortha's keen sword through the dark on his foe  
bearing down.

And next moment he knew he had plunged it right through,  
by the rush  
Of gore spouting into his eyes ; while the man, repulsed, fell  
in a bush.

All was dark ; all around roared the forest, and there was  
no moon,  
As the victor, dim groping, knelt down on the vanquished, to  
crush

Out his last breath, hard-breathed and blood-blind ;—but that  
last breath was gone :—

Then, feeling about for the neck of his foe lying prone,  
Tearing off as a trophy the heavy gold torque he had worn,  
Took it to him, exulting in soul at the deed he had done.

And wearied in limb and in brain with the many-houred toil  
Of the battle, lay down in the dark by the side of his spoil,  
And slept till above the grey hills by the ocean, pale morn  
Touched the graves of the heroes far off on the heights of Tir  
Moil.

## II.

When Diortha awoke, his first thought was the collar of gold,  
Which, in pride, he had laid by his heart in his vesture's blue  
fold,

And, arisen—the while the sun flamed through the trunks  
of the trees,  
From the clear joyous heavens on the distance of green wood  
and wold,

On the bird-singing branches and fresh dewy grasses around—  
Had but glanced at his warrior treasure, when lo! without  
sound,

But with both arms up flung in despair, he sunk down on  
his knees,  
Then, fallen flat, dashed his grey brows again and again on  
the ground ;

For, alas ! and alas ! when he looked on that torque he had  
won,

The name met his eyes of his son, of his best beloved son,  
Of Imligh, his warrior's pride, the strong branch of his  
heart,  
His dead mother's glory, his age's last darlingest one ;

Of Imligh, whose heart his cursed arm, his cursed sword, had  
pierced through,

The heart that had beat to his own, ever tender and true,  
Whose eyes used to shine as he voiced the high strains of  
his art,

In the bower or the fortress's hall, till their lives as one  
grew ;

Whose dear blood—ah, why had his eyes been restored to the  
day,

So heinously blotted that hour; on his robe and hands lay,—  
His sweet blood, the fount of his own brighter youth,  
emptied now

Of its vigour for ayne by his curs'd sire, left lonely and grey.

What demon had darkened the night?—nay, what demon  
possessed

Him, Diortha, whose sword had thus slaughtered his own son,  
his best ?

Impelled by a fate from the damned with that cruel blind  
blow—

Yes, a demon had seized on his soul, and was now its dark  
guest.

Inhuman in deed, feeling human no longer, he rose,  
Tore his grey hair in handfuls, and tore from his body its  
clothes—

In the sun standing naked as on the same hour he was  
born—

Then, for care of the thing hated most, as a madman oft does,

Clutching up his red brand, rushed away through the woods,  
over dale,

Past the cots by the lake, where all, seeing him furious and  
pale,

Fled before him, and hid from his sight and the light of the  
morn,  
'Till his dread form was lost, and had vanished the sound of  
his wail.

## III.

Wild wandering over the Land—where the tribes who had heard  
Of his madness-made woes, with dark awe and with deep  
pity stirred,

Though they fled him, left food by their closely barred doors,  
when he came  
And eat, now at night in the moonbeam, or when the first bird  
Sang clear to the dawn's yellow streak from the hedge or the  
tree—  
Came Dithora one noon where the ocean spread boundless and  
free.

'Twas late autumn ; through sombre mists glimmered the  
sun's withering flame  
On the barren high mountains and headlands of grey in the sea.  
Then, as standing up gaunt in the wind turned his hollow-  
eyed glance  
On the endless majestical glory of Lir's mighty foam-waved  
expanse ;  
And, as at his feet heavy thundered the green-billowed  
tumult of foam,  
And the spray on his naked form drifted, his soul rose  
sublimed in a trance ;

And he felt that his nature was one with the wind and the  
wave,  
With the sun and the ocean, with phantoms returned from  
the grave,  
And that earth and the heavens and the heights and the  
depths were the home  
Of a spirit, howe'er through its wilderness sorrow might rave ;  
And that death was the change of the cloud from the waters  
upfurl'd  
From darkness to light, that in shadow, in splendour now  
curled,

Careering in wind, everlastingly followed the sun,  
Or was by the sun followed along the vast reach of the world.—

But short was the clear orb'd dream of a fancy astray ;  
Soon a voice in the breeze, like his son's, from the dim dying  
day

Turned his mind on the keen-pang'd past, as with head  
sunk upon  
His bosom of sobs, through the twilight he held his sad way.

## IV.

Thus roved he for years through the brown moors of  
 Connaicne Mara,  
 The wild woods of Crumann, the bounteous green slopes of  
 Ceara,

O'er Echtges's grey hills, from which Grian is seen flowing  
 south;  
 By the towns of Clann Cathel, the frowning high forts of  
 Diamara;

Through the lake vales of Luaigne, by Magh Luirg, famed for  
 horses of speed, [of mead,  
 Where the great race of Aodha renowned for the banquets  
 Filled up plenteous the bowls of white stone for the  
 traveller's mouth,  
 And had ever a sheep, horse or cloak for the stranger in  
 need.

But lone as the wind was Diortha, whose heart was the food  
 Of remorse, of a sorrow that maddened each fugitive mood  
 Of his spirit, which, like an oak blasted, but yielded the  
 sound  
 Of its harsh gnarring boughs, whose green leaves could no  
 more be renewed;

Through his veins a wild light like the fire of the fen ever  
 ran;

He, a man who had slain his own son, his beloved, hated  
 man,

His own shape, with a hatred insane that forbiddingly  
 wound

Like a serpent, but widened the range of humanity's ban.

Yet, often at times, morn and even, as the naked one lone  
 Stretched in cavern or wood, when the song of a bird broke  
 his moan,

He would tell to the wind his sweet verses, or sing to the  
 seas

Ancient memories of time and great wars, in a faint monotone;

Old fancies of song would spring up through his brain, like  
 the glow

Of the strange flitting lights of the North o'er a mountain of  
 snow;

And the stormy melodious surge of his soul's rhapsodies,  
 Bursting forth for a little would drown irredeemable woe.

At length, on an evening of beauty, when the air and the  
 ocean were still,

When the showery spring cloud was veiling remotely the  
 green sloping hill,

When aloft the black lines of the crows floated woodward  
athwart the dim sky,  
Beneath the tide rippled, and near him through mosses the  
clear bubbled rill,

While the twilight orb sparkling 'mid hazes of rose on the  
breast

Of the sea, blent its beam with the emerald wave of the west—  
At the foot of an oak on the shore weird Diortha had lain  
to die,

His white giant bones weather-bleached, with life weary, and  
yearning for rest.

Then, as comes to one pacing the evening fields, from afar  
Undulating, a strange and vague stream of sweet sound, from  
that star

Came across the calm waters along the thin radiance it  
cast

A whisper harmonious from the realms where the blessed  
ones are,

Whispering, "Come, wearied Poet soul, come to the regions  
above,

Here is peace; here await thy sad spirit the friends whom  
you love;"

Then a smile lit his face, as he sighed—and that sigh was  
his last!

On the hush came the dirge of the seas, from the woodlands  
the moan of the dove.

## ST PATRICK AND AENGUS.

### *Christian Period.*

FROM the wintry wild West fell the daylight's last gleam of  
grey gold,

Over Uladh's dim pastures, all dotted with hamlet and  
fold;

O'er the long ridge of mountains that ended in one higher  
still,

Whose pyramid fronted the desert seas, stony and cold,

Crowned with storm cloud; and deepened the blank windy  
darkness below,

Round the wavy Snamh Aigneach and the sullen shores dreary  
with snow,

Where the white woodlands moaned in the blast, when  
upon a white hill

Through the solitude shone a light, faint, but with steadfastest  
glow,

Which came from the casemented niche of a Church rude  
 and small,  
 With barn and with dwelling surrounded by oaks bare and  
 tall,  
 In whose chamber two Figures were seated before a wood  
 fire,  
 Which flashed on the smoky brown roof and on either stone  
 wall,—

On a table, where bread, milk, and honey in bowls had been  
 placed,  
 On a scriptural scroll whose dim parchment was worn and  
 defaced,  
 On a staff, ivory tipped, and a cloak stiff with frost and  
 with mire;  
 On the men in black robes girdled in with a rope at the  
 waist.

One was still in his youth, and though pale, courage-fronted  
 and strong,  
 Whose bright eyes as he listened were hid by his black lashes  
 long;  
 While the other was far on his way to the region of  
 Death,  
 Whose moonlight fell cold on his locks and his white beard  
 among;

But in whose deep eyes shone the holy and conquering light  
 Of a soul that had won many souls from the armies of night;  
 And a vigour immortal flamed round his broad brow, and  
 Christ's breath  
 From his pale lips breathed calm of the conquests of Love  
 and of Right.

Long had he been speaking, and then as the slow gathering  
 tear  
 Dimmed the young abbot's eyes, said :—" Yes, Aengus, my  
 time draweth near,  
 But the younger will follow my footsteps, and lead up to  
 God  
 From the gloom of the heathen this people, to me ever dear;

" Shall tend the poor sheep I have snatched from the wolf in  
 the dark,  
 Shall guard them—till sinks this wide deluge—in Christ's  
 saving ark,  
 'Till the whole isle, illumed by the seed I have sown as I  
 trod,  
 Shall be His, when beyond the earth's sunset has sailed my  
 soul's barque.



“What although still Hibernia spreads round from the flood  
to the flood,  
Hardly here and there sacredly shining from His love and  
blood,  
Like a cloud that looms low in the air, from the eastern  
dawn,  
But tinged on its loftiest summits—for the rest wild and  
rude,—

“Yet ne’ertheless, thanks to the Heavens, somewhat has  
been done  
Since the dim rolling arduous years when my work was begun;  
And already the shades of the Past from the island with-  
drawn,  
Have let on its nations the light of the new risen sun.

“Ah me! what vicissitudes gloomy have passed, since, a  
child  
At Nemthur I lived, amid forests and races as wild,  
Save those of the Britons who came from the Southern  
towns,  
Who had learned in the churches the story of Christ undefiled,

“Which I took to my heart with rejoicing, as one waked  
with fear  
’Mid the savage dark woods full of beasts, sees the dawn  
rising clear;  
And grew stronger than though on my forehead I wore the  
world’s crowns;—  
But that golden hour passed, and a period of terror was near—

“For, scarce on the Ichtian sea, with my people I’d past,  
To visit our kindred at Letha, when came on the blast  
The fleet of King Sectmaid’s, who deluged all Gussrigh with  
gore,  
Killing most, save the young, whom they bore to their black  
vessels fast,

“There Conches, my mother, was wounded, and the rest of  
us torn  
From our hearth, bound with cords, o’er the seas to Hibernia  
were borne;  
Some escaped, but there Lupait was sold on Conaille  
Murthemne’s shore,  
And I, when our vessel had reached Dalaraidhe’s wild bourne.

“There for six years I lived in the woods tending kine, but  
each day  
Wrapped in prayer, which drew down on my bondage a  
Heaven-sent ray;

For one morn at that time to the beach came a wandering  
ship,  
In the which I escaped, and was borne by the Pagans away.

“For three suns we sailed, and at length I was cast on a land  
Like a wilderness waste, where for ten days and six by the  
strand

I wandered alone, nor save water and roots crossed my lip  
Other food, ’till one sunset I saw through the vapours a hand

“Point South, which, though weak unto death, I then  
followed; and soon

God gave me both fire, food, and rest—and the next rounded  
moon

Saw me once again girt by my friends at the Atheluid for a  
space—

And I thanked my great God who had granted that bountiful  
boon.

“There it was that I heard a Voice call me one night in a  
dream,

Crying: ‘Succat, Hibernia revokes you to teach and redeem  
With Christ’s faith, from the kingdom of Satan, her night-  
dwelling race.’

And, as one filled with new life I rose, and with morning’s  
first beam

“Took ship on the green rolling seas to this island of green,  
Where many a danger awhile threatened round me I ween,  
Preaching Truth to the heathen, but where as years sped I  
was known

As the Apostle of God in the land where a slave I had been.

“At length when I’d preached to the chieftains of Uladh,  
and to

The Gaels of Ath Cliath, and founded of churches a few,  
The noise of my mission around the broad land being blown,  
And many accepting the Gospel as holy and true.

“Through the tillages goodly, and fair fields, towards Tara  
I came,

On that festival eve when the Druids had quenched every  
flame,

Save the fire of the King Laoghair—that antique Pagan  
rite—

When I lit on a hill, with the few who had followed my fame,

“The fire of the Paschal. Then saw I his host all in arms,  
Horsed, on foot, and in chariot, and his Druids with staves  
and with charms,

Approach with the noise of brown shields and horns blown  
through the night ;  
And arrived, while the king from his charger averted all  
harms,

“ Keen Dubtach, his Druid, advancing cried out unto me:—  
‘ Oh, Succat, declare to us here this unknown Deity  
Whom you worship, and would have our people to worship,  
who long  
With more reason than you have but bent to the gods they  
can see;

“ ‘ Grian, lord of the heavens, filling nature with glory divine;  
Pale Easga, the queen of the dead; Lir, the God of the brine;  
These know we because we behold, and with sacrifice vari-  
ous and song  
These adore, inasmuch as they serve us: now say how much  
better is thine ?

“ Then I said:—‘ Say, oh ! Dubtach, whether thou canst  
behold thy own thought,  
The spirit that moveth within thee, and without which thy  
body were naught;  
Which invisibly acts in thy being, as in all things around  
thee, in sooth,  
Views and governs all, and stores up whatsoe’er it is taught ?

“ ‘ Even such is the Spirit we worship, omnipresent in nature  
and life,  
Though unseen the bright source of the world, and the  
heavens with his excellence rife;  
In thy head when thou thinkest, thy heart when thou  
feelest with truth;—  
He it is, who beholding the Heathen rolled in darkness and  
strife,

“ ‘ Has late caused to appear His own Son, Holy Christ, from  
above,  
To teach love to man, and redeem all the nations through  
love.  
The faith that I teach is the faith in this spirit of Power,  
As of Goodness, whose wing is not that of the eagle but  
dove—

“ ‘ God, whose spirit once entered into us through a pure  
heart and prayer,  
Our soul enters into the bliss which his chosen but share,  
Loving all, serving all, grows impregnable from the same hour  
To the evils of life he has taught us to mend and to bear.

“ ‘Sun and moon look alike on the fields of sweet corn and  
red war;  
The senseless sea wafts us to friends as to battles afar;  
But when tempest has shaken the skies, when the light-  
ning has riven  
The clouds, our heart kindles with joy looking on the first  
star;

“ ‘Not like sun or like moon is our God, but a Father whose  
eyes  
Watch His children with love ever more, day and night from  
the skies,  
And whose infinite love is a sea that but bears us to Heaven,  
While disposing in earth and in Heaven their vast destinies.’

“ ‘Then the King, who had listened—while closely his Druids  
around  
Had gathered in dread lest that I, with some potent spell  
crowned,  
Should win him to me—after saying that more I should  
speak  
On some common day, not like that Feis day, rode off from  
the ground.

“ ‘But numbers gave ear, though he went unannealed to the  
dead,  
And throughout the isle I with the Faith many multitudes  
fed,  
Where various, who ere that I came from Paladius the Meek  
Had been Christ’s, brought a many to hear ‘what Patricius  
said.’

“ ‘But as yet was my mission unauthorised, save by the will  
Of my passionate heart to make His this dark race, and  
fulfil  
Christ’s commands to go forth and to preach to the Gentiles  
his Word,  
And that Voice in the heaven-sent dream which inspired me,  
until

“ ‘Having raised numerous churches to guard the good tidings,  
I sailed  
Hence to Gaul, and was there at Auxerre, by Germain, the  
Saint hailed  
Of Hibernia; and his learning illumed me and his eloquence  
stirred  
Me to journey to Rome, and obtain Jesus’ staff, and pre-  
vailed;

“So, soon by Segetius, the presbyter, valiant and true  
Companioned, I passed the proud tribes of the Senones  
through,

And up the defiles of Jurassa ascended the snow  
To the crown of the world, whence beneath us spread  
Lemanus blue;

“And, the higher hills traversed, descended the Paduan  
plain,

Spreading rich in the sun its expanses of vineyard and grain;  
And through olive groves yellow from Mediolan followed  
the flow

Of the river, the Cassian Way, and Etruria's train

“Of aged and opulent cities; 'till one starry night  
Mighty Rome, marble pilld on its mountains, saluted our  
sight;

And we passed the steep streets amid temples to churches  
now turned,  
And where fortified palaces, many lamped, shone from each  
height.

“There the Pagans delighted indeed in the sumptuous display  
Of superlative luxuries aureate and silken array,

In their villas and baths, where the client crowds bent to  
the knees,  
In their chariots of silver, white horsed, on the Appian Way.

“For the fear of the Goth's giant armies and fierce swarthy  
Hun,

Had passed like a thunder cloud from that domain of the sun;  
And the nobles still trifled with time and its poor vanities,  
While the militant Churches triumphed in the peoples they'd  
won.

“There the while in the foreigner's quarter, the thronged  
Aventine,

We tarried; Germain with seven deacons arrived by the  
brine,

And his coming was bread to my hungry heart, when I  
found  
By his influence sweet that the consecrate gift should be  
mine.

“And, verily, soon it befell in a glorious hour,  
As I knelt in the aisle of Petros, near the altar's bright bower,  
By the heir of his Keys, Celestine, holy Papa, I was  
crowned,

While the court of the Emperor crowded each galleried  
tower.

“ While about me white-robed, multitudinous ministers thronged;  
While the music rose, hymning the story divine, many-tongued,  
Of the Magi who came to His cradle, illumined by the star,  
I was clothed by his hands with the pallium for which I had longed—

“ In the presence of mild Theodosius, who late had arrived  
From imperial Ravenna at Christian Rome, to be shrived,  
And to witness the bishop-made priest, who had come from the far  
Britannia, where Christ’s sword had freed many Satan had gyved.

“ Then, as Celestine’s Legate, returned I from wonderful Rome,  
By the Middle Sea’s shores and Iberia’s, to this island Home;  
For Attila’s barbarous armies were ravaging Gaul,  
And more dangerous then were its roads than the path of the foam.

“ And, at Uldah arrived, Daire, the wealthy, kind chieftain bestowed  
Upon me Drium Sailech, then a hill with a wild willow wood,  
As a place for a church and a synod, whate’er might befall;  
And being sick he was healed, and his sins washed away in Christ’s blood.

“ Then I went forth baptizing the tribes from the east to the west,  
From the north to the south; and of many a chief I was guest,  
For the heads once won o’er the clans follow—nor until the whole isle  
Was converted to God, would my soul from its sacred toil rest.

“ And of late in a vision, I seemed caught up into the air,  
And saw from the height o’er the lands I had traversed in care,  
From Rome to Hibernia, a long line of light like a smile  
That seemed to join both with a lustre eternal as fair.

“ Now the Churches are many, the laws of the Pagan improved;  
I have gathered about me my people long lost and long loved,  
Now the hell-given power of the Druids is clouding away;  
And our various peoples by Christ’s saving spirit are moved.

“ By God’s grace, I, Patrick, have grown the isle’s spiritual  
King ;

But my time draweth near : and night wanes, and the dismal  
winds sing,

So come, my good Aengus, let us kneel ere we rest us and  
pray

To the One who for ever shall shelter us under His wing :—

“ ‘ Holy Christ, by Thy great love, we bind us to live in Thy  
light,

By Thy power to shield us from the black incantations of  
night,

And we bind to us through Thee the powers of the universe  
vast,

To aid us in spreading Thy Scripture, eternal as bright.

“ ‘ Oh ! Christ, be thou with us, our guard upon sea and on  
shore,

While th’ idolaters rage, and around us disasters outpour,

Until Thou in the clouds of the heavens reappearing at  
last,

In that glory the Blessed ascend to Thy peace ever more.’ ”

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## ST COLUMBA’S SPELL, A.D. 560.

### I.

KING DIARMUID had wronged Saint Columba, for he had  
assailed

Eoch Tiormacara, the King of Connaught, many valed,

Who through the Saint’s influence long had been Christ’s;  
and a spell

Had been layed on his life, the which hearing he trembled  
and paled.

Two hundred moons rolled through the sky, when at length  
in a fight

With Aodh Dub of Dalarada, he fell by his spearmen at night;

But although for his body they searched through the corse  
covered dell,

Never more was that body revealed to humanity’s sight.

But, after ten days, as some hunters passed through a wild  
wood,

Of a sudden they stopp’d, and with horror and wonderment  
stood;

For, lo ! at the foot of a hollow oak, watched by a wolf,  
Lay the blue ghastly head of the monarch all gouted with  
blood,

Which knowing, they seized; and then riding as fast as the  
wind,  
Bore it off through the gloom from the monster whose red  
eyes behind

Still following flamed, till they came to the brink of a gulf;  
This they leaped, when it vanished, as they looking back-  
ward opined;

And arrived at the shore of a lake then illumed by the  
moon,

Where some clerics and monks stood, awaiting the corrach  
that soon

Was to bear them across to their church in an island with  
trees,

To those holy men gave for interment the sad-fated boon;  
And, being vassals of Diarmuid and Christians, entreated  
that they

Would pray for the soul while they buried the royal red  
clay,

Which they did, and, moreover, with kingliest ceremonies,  
At Clanmacnoise reared it a tomb which is seen to this day.

## II.

Meanwhile came to Enna his son, who had lived a learned  
year

With the abbats of Alba, the news of his father's death drear;  
And spreading white sails unto Erin he sailed o'er the sea,  
With whose brine was commingled many a wind-scattered  
tear;

And arrived at Ath Cliath, he hurried, by night and by day,  
The galloping steeds of his chariot along the high way,

To the new church that reared over Clanmacnoise' emerald  
lea,

Its turrets and walls in the evening tranquil and grey.

But after reflection and prayer, when all had retired

To their cells, moved with anguish, with restless anxiety fired,

That royal sad head once again to behold, he arose,

And although with his sorrow and voyage and travel sore  
tired,

Having kindled a torch, with a strong iron implement armed,  
Through the chill aisle, that save by the sunbeam had never  
been warmed,

With echoing footsteps approached the tomb: then with  
blows

Sought to burst it asunder—not knowing the while, it was  
charmed.

At length when with one mighty effort the stone he had  
raised

And rolled aside—sudden with terror he startled and gazed,



For, lo! from the place where the bloody head lay in the  
 gloom  
 Sprang a black Demon Shadow whose eyes with ferocity  
 blazed;  
 A shadow that now seemed a wolf on the ground, and that  
 now  
 Like a human form wavering in darkness and fire seemed to  
 grow,  
 Which with threatening gesture held guard by the black  
 gaping tomb,  
 Silent, horrible, hellish, potential, impervious to blow,  
 Deaf to anguish and prayer; for the prince had first struck at  
 the shade  
 Till he found but the hollow vault rung with the clash of his  
 blade;  
 Then in terror implored it to let him but look once again  
 On that face, ere for ever its form from his memory should  
 fade;  
 When the Thing springing forward had touched him—the  
 while with a cry,  
 He fell, and remained as if dead on the pavement anigh;  
 And when he awoke, he was stretched in a cell, full of pain,  
 And seemed mad for a time, nor could sleep, save with one  
 watching by.  
 The tomb was reclosed; but another moon rounded and died,  
 Ere his cheek gained its bloom, or his spirit its vigour and  
 pride,  
 When he rode with his retinue splendid, with cloak and  
 with spear,  
 Toward Rath Mora, to visit young Emer, his beauteous bride,  
 Through rich shady regions of apples and oaks, by great  
 forts,  
 Towns with churches and crosses by many a broad river's  
 ports,  
 Tracts of pasture and corn; and arrived at the palace made  
 dear  
 By the pulse of his heart, passed a period in revels and  
 sports.  
 Day by day his great grief and dark fear for the relic  
 entombed,  
 Floated off like a cloud in the morning that love had relumed  
 For Emer, and sunlight possessed his whole soul for a  
 space,  
 Nor guessed he the destiny yet unto which he was doomed  
 Because of the spell; nor amore of that Shadow thought he,  
 But of Emer's blue eyes, where the spring sparkled amiably;  
 Of the secret soft love-light that beamed from her fair oval  
 face;  
 Her voice, like the wind of the dawn breathing over the sea,

The amber pale hair clustering round her pure brow like the  
 hue  
 That rings round a vaporous moon; of her words soft as dew,  
 Her white hand, but more than all else of her dear music  
 soul,  
 And that snow-vestured heart that to his beat as tender as  
 true.

## III.

It happened just then as one noon Enna wandered alone,  
 Through the beech wood's green shadowypaths, beneath roofs  
 summer blown,  
 That, full of sweet fancies, he stretched beneath one giant  
 bole  
 And slept; till a sudden his slumber was stirred by a moan;  
 When, springing afoot, he looked round. It was sunset; the  
 light  
 Here and there upon tree-trunks and branches was goldening  
 bright,  
 And with radiant angels the forest's recesses seemed filled,  
 And the drift of a cascade alone broke the calm—when his  
 sight  
 Was horrified; for there by a lightning struck oak in a dim  
 Nook anear, stood the hideous Shadow form glaring at him,  
 Black as night, fixed as fate, when a shuddering terror  
 pulse chill'd  
 All his blood, blanked his mind, and awhile stiffened every  
 limb.  
 At length while he prayed, vigour back to him slowly returned,  
 And he gazed on the demon whose eyes in the heavy gloom  
 burned  
 The redder, nor moved it until he had moved; then as  
 down  
 The forest he hurried, still followed him until he turned  
 From its shores on the grey evening meadows and highway  
 that led  
 To the palace, when looking behind him, he found it had fled.  
 Fled—but to return; on the youth ever rested its frown,  
 And Enna was haunted henceforth by the Demon of the  
 Dead.  
 Sometimes when the morning ray sundered his lids, its black  
 form  
 Would seem bending o'er him, sometimes from the azure  
 noon warm  
 In the orchards with Emer it watched them—by him alone  
 seen—  
 It pursued him at night when he rode in the gloom of the  
 storm;

Now, o'er the white plains of the snow when he travelled  
 afar,  
 The moon blent its shadow with his; in the thick of the war  
 Dimm'd his eyes when he fronted the foeman, or rose like a  
 screen  
 When voyaging in tempest he gazed on some ship-guiding  
 star,  
 When the mountainous billows rose round, and their hoarse  
 hungry roar  
 Boded death on the rocks of some sightless precipitous shore.  
 By its presence all places, all times were made fearful; in  
 prayer  
 Its influence diverted his spirit howe'er it might soar  
 In pure faith to the heavens, and wintered each radiant hour  
 Of the lovers when whispering at sunset in chamber and  
 bower.  
 Companioned or lonely, on land or on ocean, all where  
 Like his shadow lived by him this hell-shadowed, feared  
 Phantom Power.

## IV.

Thus three restless years had rolled on 'mid the pleasures  
 and din  
 Of the court and the field, and the shade-haunted prince had  
 grown thin,  
 And his sighs were half loves and half deaths; when a  
 voice in a dream  
 Proclaimed that the fate he endured was because of the sin  
 Of his father, whose demon he knew not till then was the  
 Thing  
 Which pursued him; and counselled, that spreading swift  
 sails on the wing  
 Of the winds, he, with Emer companioned, with morning's  
 first beam  
 Should hie to the bay of Feal Lodain, and thence voyaging  
 O'er the northern seas to Columba at Hy, should entreat  
 With prayer the great saint to remove by his influence sweet,  
 And power with the heavens, the spell he had layed on the  
 soul  
 Of the monarch; and banish the demon that followed his feet.  
 So the lovers set forth in a pinnace which held but the twain,  
 O'er the breezy blue spacious waste of the foam-lined main;  
 And although like a cloud, it still followed their course  
 toward the pole,  
 Its approach by their hymns was averted, and its power  
 seemed to wane.  
 And when the late moon in its fulness arose in the sky,  
 Arose o'er the waters the hills and the churches of Hy,

The cliffs of the streams, the blue inlets with crosses and  
 tombs,  
 The white strand of the monks, Oran's grave and the Carbeal  
 Muiri,  
 And passed copses of nut trees, and yellow furze down, and  
 pure well,  
 They entered the church, and along by each anchorite's cell  
 Approached the high altar beneath where the great turret  
 looms,  
 And prayed to its patron Columba, to banish the spell.  
 And as they yet knelt, and with whispers the stillness  
 beguiled—  
 Enna stooped like a young ash, Emer like a sea-flower  
 wild—  
 A figure gigantic stood by them, majestic in mien,  
 Lightning-eyed, but whose countenance seen through his  
 cochal was mild;  
 Who saluted each forehead with the kiss of sweet peace and  
 with prayer,  
 And deep incantation averted the curse from the pair;  
 And their spirits were freed, and the Shadow no longer  
 was seen,  
 As they bent to that warrior of Christ smiling down on them  
 there.

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## THE BATTLE OF CILL MOSANHOG.

(Rathfarnham.)

*Danish Period—October, A.D., 917.*

NINE centuries after Christ ascended to glory,  
 Through the deep eastern heavens, and in Eire his reign  
 For four hundred golden years had hallowed the main;  
 When the Northmen reddened our shores and ruined our  
 temples hoary,  
 Opens our battle story,  
 Here in Ath Cliath, ruled by Sitruic Imar, the Dane.

It was a morn of autumn, splendidly glowed the sun  
 Over the tranquil space of the dazzling azure bay,  
 Spreading from green Ben Edair to Cualan's mountains grey,  
 Sloped and spired from their woods upon the listless cascades  
 run—

Over many a dun,  
 Built on the shady plain by river and winding way.

Along the sandy shores of the Life currenting bright,  
 Up to the trenched walls of Dublin fort by the shore,  
 Long black barques of battle were anchored, and many more  
 Of commerce of the Gaels, with skin sails spread in the light—  
     Many were vessels of might;  
 With lofty decks and armoured sterns and raven banners  
 floating o'er.

Niall Glundub, Uladh's monarch, long had he been enraged,  
 Seeing the Danar's armies ruling the coast and south of the  
 town,  
 Seeing the life of the people gloomed in the foreigners'  
 frown;  
 Long in mustering the septs of the Dalarads was he engaged;  
     Many the wars he had waged,  
 And now resolved to a final fight to carry his sword and  
 crown.

'Twas on a morn, in the midst of the month that ends the  
 autumn year,  
 When harvest was gathered, and plenty reigned through the  
 head and heart of the land,  
 He led the manifold host that marshalled beneath the com-  
 mand  
 Of ten strong succouring kings, across the Life's narrowest  
 weir:

    It was a spectacle grand  
 To see that long battalioned host advance in its warlike  
 gear.

In shirts of mail were the soldiery attired and tunics gay,  
 Each bore a variegated shield, a hazel spear and sword,  
 Or pike or heavy headed axe—a proud and valorous band,  
 Laughing and glittering in the sun, just risen above the bay,  
     Their active ranks moved toward  
 The grassy plain of Cill Mosanhog, where the Danar's army  
 lay.

The Danar's lines advanced to combat fire-like and heavily;  
 Their corslets triple-plated flamed, dazzling aside the light;  
 Some bore the scymitar and some the long sword weighty  
 and bright;  
 Some ponderous battle-axes gleaming keen and awsome:  
     The war-clubs' iron tree,  
 And spears innumerable that swayed like waves in a  
 rocky sea.

On Cill Mosanhog's meadows, front to front embattled,  
 Under the wooded slope of the hills, for a moment stood  
 The foreigner's host and army of Eire; splendidly from the  
 flood

Shone the sun on the spacious plain, villaged and many  
cattled;

The next the arrows rattled,—  
A storm of steel, and the battles roared, and the front ranks  
spouted blood.

And *noa, noa!* roared the Norsemen, clashing on their arms,  
As rank and rank, a wall of brass and iron they onward came,  
Invoking Thor and Odin—breasts and helmets all a flame,  
Chaunting furious battle-songs while dealing deadly harms,  
Answering our alarms,  
Rushed on us 'mid the thunder of armisonous acclaim.

And hand to hand the green swords met the blue swords, and  
the clash

Of armour-cleaving axes rung, and together rolled the horse,  
Like thunder-clouds, while chariots galloped over many a  
corse;

Battalion with battalion fierce encountering 'mid the crash  
Of breastplates and the smash  
Of bones and spears, till thousands writhed upon the bloody  
gorse.

Champions of mighty stature, whose renown in singing tales  
Was to re-echo from that day, yielded in fight their breath.  
And, drunk with battle, hosts of heated warriors bit the  
heath,

While the fierceness of the Danar, the proud valour of the Gaels,  
Through terrored woods and vales  
Swept raging to their ruin underneath the cloud of Death.

For hours the combat lasted, when a storm began to blow,  
And thunder clamoured o'er them, where the lurid moving  
heaven

Seemed imagining our combat 'mid the vapours lightning  
riven;

And Niall, though outnumbered, fought o'er thousands laid  
below,

When Imar cried out—"Lo!  
The Valekyrse's horses come to bear our brave to heaven!"

Then, dread grew the kingly slaughter on Cill Mosanhog  
that day,

For Niall himself was spear-transfixed in the foremost press  
of the war,

And Conaing, Eire's heir to be, and mighty Conchobar;  
Flaithbhertach, likewise Maelme, son of Flangan, king of  
Bregh,

The golden-helmed Aedh,  
And Congalach, Mailmuire, Eremhon,—each a red battle star.

## THE WANDERINGS AND LAMENTATIONS OF QUEEN GORMFLAITH.\*

LATE was the eve in autumn time, from the dead and dreary  
 west,  
 The sunset shed a wildered flame where all was gloom and  
 rest,  
 O'er Fortuatha's leaden hills and silent sullen lakes,  
 Touching along the steep sad shores the white foam's flying  
 flakes  
 That chafed by the rising twilight breeze, fluttered up rock  
 and beach:  
 O'er the heron perched upon one leg within some rushy reach;  
 O'er caverns yawning in the sides of precipices drear,  
 Lone hermitages hanging o'er the fathomless black mere;  
 And o'er the ruined town the Danes destroyed in days fore-  
 gone,  
 Which spread afar, a dreary waste of ashes and of stone;  
 And on the Churches greyly, clustering amid trees beneath  
 The lofty tower that rose beside them on the sombre heath.  
 For although rifled of their wealth those dim asylums stood  
 Sole relics of war's ravages above the shadowy flood.  
 Already night in cloudy desolation domed the sky,  
 And the last crows flew towards Cualan's woods with faint  
 inconstant cry,  
 When by the road that drily wound through barren moun-  
 tains where  
 The brown heath shivered blankly in the gusts of upper air,  
 Down by the well beside the cross, and through the thinning  
 trees,  
 Whose fallen leaves blent their withered sounds with the  
 grey wind's litanies—  
 A woman, tall and aged, poorly garbed and deadly pale,  
 Approached the Hospitable House above the dismal vale,  
 And entered; where the large, low raftered room was full of  
 din;  
 Where the pine-torch lit a board with bread and meat and  
 megathin;  
 And by the hearth's hot oaken fire, stretched on the rushes  
 green,  
 A company of poor and boisterous travellers were seen:  
 And by the door were horse boys, clowns, lampooners,  
 jesters, layed,  
 Disputing, drinking, quarrelling, while a drunken harper  
 played.  
 But, as the woman entered, of a sudden ceased the sound  
 Of bitter words and laughter loudly clamouring around;

\* Pronounced Gurmley.

The clown's leer turned into a gape, and all seemed sore afraid.

The minstrel stopp'd and made pretence to pat the sleepy hound

Stretched at his feet, and even the Biatach obeisant bowed,  
Looking upon that wanderer's countenance, beautiful and proud;

And as she motioned for a seat with an imperial air,  
All standing guessed with looks downcast that majesty was there.

Alas! and something more than even majesty could show;  
For those blue eyes with all their deep divine and tranquil glow  
Were full of awe as they had looked on many scenes of woe,  
On horror, dole, and havoc:—with that wasted figure drear,  
Seemed sorrow like its shade allied for many a gloomy year.

“And who art thou?” with reverence asked the Biatach, while the fool

With straightened face and upraised brows, first-brushed,  
then placed a stool.

“A wanderer!” the woman gently answered, “who has been,  
Though little boots it now—a monarch's daughter and twice queen.

Hast thou ne'er heard of Gormflaith, when her sire, Flann Sinna's reign,

Goldened in peace and plenty over Munhain's spacious plain?  
Hast thou ne'er heard of Cormac my betrothed, the noblest man

For learning, beauty, valour—Eric's more unhappy Flann—  
Of Cearbal, my first kingly sponsor, who with my angered sire,

Alas! in treacherous, hateful battle quenched his youthful fire  
At Beatagh Muahu? or again of Niall Glundub, King

Of Uladh's warrior races? Few the years that on the wing  
Have passed to the great spirit-land beyond the starry space  
When I yet owned the majesty descended from my race.

But now, alas! the isle possesses but their dust alone,  
And I, a wanderer, haunt the tombs of those who held its throne.

So give me food, good Biatach, and yield me rest, lest I,  
Enhungered and foot weary with my long day's travel, die,  
Before my mission is fulfilled in visiting this place;  
For I must see Saint Moula who lives nigh in sacred grace.”

The hours of the autumn night past, windy darkness possessed  
the wide earth;

And the traveller company drowsed, or stretched sleeping  
around the wide hearth.



The fool and the jester were snoring, the cattle were dumb in  
their stalls,

And wrapped in their leathern cloaks others slept under night  
by the walls,

When the pale beggar Queen, all forlorn, slowly paced by the  
marge of the lake;

All was dark; through a cleft in the barren hills sinking remote  
The new moon just guided her way past a chapel, and boat  
Stranded nigh, when she saw some way out something white  
like a flake

Of foam; and had cried to the darkness and echoes, "Oh, where,  
Moula, Saint of Fortuatha, art thou?" when she was aware  
Of the monk in his robes lying prone in his cold penitential bed,  
For the black waters covered his form so that nothing was  
seen but his head.

"Well, know I, oh Gormflaith, thy voice," said the shadowy  
head from the wave,

"And, were it another save thou who hast come like a ghost  
from the grave

To break thus upon my night vigil and cold penitential prayer,  
Thou'd find me more dumb than the water that washes the  
rocky beach there;

But I know that thou, daughter, has lost all that mortal can  
lose here below,

And that death is the best gift that Heaven could send thee  
to quiet thy woe;

But, 'tis sorrow will win thee that heaven, it is suffering only  
unlocks

Those glorious portals, oh, Gormflaith, for thee, that for me by  
the shocks

Of perpetual prayer and of pains self-inflicted, will yield,  
Though a million of devils opposing spat fire on the shield  
Of this soul I have tempered to conquer salvation; lo, here  
Night by night in those deadly cold waters I make me a bier,  
Till no more seems the dust of my body, my own, than the  
clay

Of yon hills; till my spirit all purified seems like the ray  
Of the moon and the stars that shine on me remote from the  
life

Of this hateful, accursed gloomy world, rolled in crime and in  
strife.

Oft at night when my blood is as cold as the water wherein  
I lie for long hours, wrapped in prayer, to cleanse off all sin,  
I hear a sweet voice on the wind of the hills whispering  
In Christ's blessed accents the glory my penance will bring;  
Then the wind and the wave, and the star and the cloud unto  
me

Make the vastness of nature my desolate sweet company;

And after I've numbered of aves three hundred and more,  
 I see splendid angels descend from the hill to the shore,  
 Who smile on me, saying, the rest of the saints shall be  
     mine,  
 And who number me with them in Christ's resurrection  
     divine.  
 But, daughter, approach, while my soul is exalted with  
     prayer,  
 That I hear thy confession, and shrive thee and bless thee,  
     oh Queen,  
 And make thy heart pure as the dew on the matinal green,  
 Sanctified by my power, and freed from all sorrow and care!"

So Gormflaith approached and knelt down on the sands by  
     the shore  
 Where the ripple scarce moved, while the wind in the clouds,  
     hanging o'er,  
 Opened up a calm space of blue sky, and a cluster was seen  
 Like a throng of bright spirits. Beyond the lake's level the  
     roar  
 Of the cascade was heard faint and far in the hills evermore:  
 From the moon, set beyond the great hills, passed a dolorous  
     air—  
 Then the shadows closed round, as she spake in the cold silence  
     there.

"Oh! woes, innumerable woes have crossed my life"—she said,  
 "Since, holy saint, upon thy knee I bent my maiden head;  
 A beggar queen I pilgrim to the Churches here to pray  
 For Cormac and for Flann, for Niall, even Cearbal, on my way.  
 Dead are the glories of my people like yon sunless west,  
 And night must reign within this heart till I have reached my  
     rest;

A few short days of sorrow, and then all for me is o'er;  
 The light of life shall never more be Gormflaith's, never more!  
 But I, though full of anguish, now have lost all taste of fear,  
 For I have seen the worst that fate from hell can bring me  
     here;

Love lost, loves turned to hatred, wars of kindred, deadliest  
     crime,

Battles, revenges, terrors, unsurpassed in any time—  
 And when the worst of woes are seen, the lesser nothing are,  
 And, save the Star of Christ, for me there's now no other Star.  
 Lo! in the windy darkness of the long nights wander I,  
 When earth and sea are rolled in the same blackness as the sky,  
 Over the desolate land alone, by passes drear where prowl  
 The wolves—and now by solitary cities where the owl  
 Hoots at the moon; by fields of battle cumbered thick with  
     dead

Where I see the heavy eagle from his feast of famine red

Disturbed, a moment rise, and settle heavily again,  
 With outstretched claw and bloody beak tearing the flesh of  
 men;

Or wandering in the high wrought tempest hear its distant roar;  
 See the huge tumult of the vast rage round the thundering  
 shore;

Or, view, maychance, unshaken, by some sullen mountain mere  
 In the glare of gloomy winter lightning, glimmering, low and  
 drear,

Some phantom sitting on the rocks above the deadly deep,  
 Or gazing on some shipwreck from the stormy ocean steep.  
 Such is the life of Gormflaith now, whose crown's resplendent  
 ray

Once shone from Boinn to Crith Cath Bhuide, from Sionain to  
 Magh Breagh.

Alone, alas! I wander earth where lie my kindred's graves,  
 Toward the night amid the years that roll like darkening  
 waves,

Poor and bereft of all I loved, of all who held me dear  
 Since when I saw the head of Cormac dripping from the spear  
 That Cearbal raised above the fight; and fearful was my fate,  
 To be the wife of him who slew my young heart's earliest mate,  
 And daughter unto one who joined with him in deadliest hate:  
 For, when at Naas, the war being over, Cearbal wounded lay,  
 And I attendant watched beside him of a summer's day,  
 Deeming him sleeping while I thought of Cormac, and my  
 heart

Burst from my eyes; a sudden from the couch I saw him  
 start,

And staring at me cry:—'What! weeping, weeping, still  
 for him,

The traitor, whom in battle I have torn limb from limb—  
 His death—is this the cause that makes thee sorrow by the  
 side

Of Cearbal, who has honoured thee by making thee his  
 bride?'

And I outspoke:—'Yes, Cearbal, 'tis for him my eyes o'er-  
 flow

And shall while ere I live—no, murderer, never hope from  
 me,

Thy throne shall yet support a branch of hateful progeny;  
 Did I give birth to son or daughter of thy blood, King, know  
 I'd brain it to thy face!' No more I spake, felled by a blow.  
 Then rage possessed me and I fled unto my father's court,  
 And dwelt there maddened till I heard that he at Cashel's  
 fort

Had fallen beneath the sword of Half, the Dane: and years  
 sped on

Till, married unto Niall, heaven sent us a sweet son.

Then for the first time in her life was Gormflaith overjoyed;  
 But ah! what spirits of evil haunt yon universal void!  
 For when I sent my little blue-eyed Domhail to the west  
 By Orbsen to be fostered, and my heart a little rest  
 Had tasted—for thus life had gained an antidote to sorrow,  
 And love made dear the rising light of every happy morrow—  
 Alas! my peace, my heart, my hope was stricken to the earth;  
 My summer joys all withered and all wintered, my lone  
 hearth,  
 For soon, too soon came tidings that my boy had found a  
 grave  
 Within the sullen, cruel, grey, accursed Orbsen's wave.

But soon was Erie destined to misfortune: in the gleam  
 Of evening's sky portentous then, three cloudy shields were  
 seen,  
 One red as blood, one fierce with fire, and one as white as  
 snow—  
 Heaven's prophecies of want and war and pestilence, we  
 know.  
 And soon with Zain and Jargus, the fierce Lochlans swept  
 the south,  
 And carnage reigned, and famine came, after two seasons'  
 drought.  
 Ah God! it thrills me to recall what, wandering one night  
 Along the Bertha's barren banks all desolate with war,  
 When winds had risen, nor through the thickened vapours  
 shone a star,  
 Losing my way in darkness, hideously met my sight.  
 There had the Danars slaughtered all, and o'er the gloomy  
 land  
 The awful moon had risen, when I felt a sudden hand  
 Pluck at my robes, and looking, I beheld a monstrous form—  
 A woman wild, whose clotted tresses streamed upon the storm,  
 Seated upon a corse whose flesh her famished fangs had torn;  
 The skeleton claw that clutched her food, she raised, and  
 wiped away  
 The blood from her gaunt chops, and towards her drawing  
 me forlorn,  
 Mumbled mid gory maniac laughter horrible—'Stay, stay;—  
 If you be hungered, here is food in plenty, fresh and raw;  
 Take some, you'll find it good and rare'—then grinning,  
 with her claw  
 Thrust a joint of human carrion in my face; and when  
 I broke away, crouched down upon the bloody corse again.  
 And through the fearful shadows of the field then could I  
 mark  
 The shapes of beast and bird, all famished, gluttoning in the  
 dark,

The flap of wings, the cranch of bones, come on the pestilent wind,

The ravenous growl of other creatures, groping famine blind,  
Till crawling here and there they came upon their human prey;—

Then from that place of death and horror sped I fast away  
Towards the neighbouring village, roofless now, a ruined heap

Filled with the dead; and double desolation on me grew  
And sorrow, wandering thus forlorn; for well the place I knew

In prosperous days of plenty, ere my youth began to wane,  
When charioting I visited my father's wide domain,  
When came to meet their queen, through April's evening  
dripping rain,

The golden-ringleted maidens of the sunny villaged plain."

Thus Gormflaith told the saint her sorrows for an hour or more;  
And having prayed, was shrived; and passed along the gloomy shore;

Then rested in an oaken wood, within a valley nigh.  
And morning came, windy and pale, along the seaward sky;  
But still she slept unseen until a woodman, passing by,  
Cried out, "Woman, awake, 'tis noon"—then flung his load  
aside,

And kneeling sought to catch her breath; but Gormflaith in  
the night had died.

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### EBBA AND HER SISTERS.

Lo! from the Convent on the mainland shore,  
Just as dawn flashes, float a white-robed train,  
Ebba and her pale sisters, moving down  
The path that leads unto the plashy sands;  
Their mission pure as love, passioned with faith,  
To reach the islands norward, dim in spray,  
Where on the disk of night a savage race  
Still worshipped ignorant gods, pouring fierce prayers  
Now to the ghostly hero-dwelling clouds,  
Or the chill crescent o'er the whistling heath.  
But valiant with the sacred power of Good,  
Strong with the light of the immortal hope,  
Whose lamp they bear in their white holy hands  
To the dark habitants of nature's isles,  
No fear can dim the glory of their hearts,  
Nor dread they the great sea and stormy stars:  
Onward they tread, sweet-voiced troubadours,  
Wandering the world, chaunting the music prayers  
The angels sing in Heaven.

Beneath, a bark  
 Swings in its restless moorage by the cliff:  
 And entering now, one the dark sail expands,  
 And one the rude helm ministers; until  
 In the dim dawn wind, past the shadowing coast  
 And rocky islets foaming round its cape,  
 Clanged over by the mew, they speed; and with  
 The wind and low bright sun accompanied,  
 Cleave out their charmed voyage through the waste,  
 All the still hours of the sea-lonely day,  
 And starry night and golden noon again.  
 At length, when the third sun sunk broadening red  
 Over the unknown waters toward the west,  
 And, herald of the night, the strengthening gale  
 Cold gusting, snowed the ever following wave,  
 'Mid darkness settling on the sailless sea—  
 Northward afar beneath the cloudy moon,  
 A line of sounding surge rose angrily;  
 And then a headland, wild above the haze,  
 And the dark level of a fireless coast.

Where, landing presently, they beached their bark  
 On the hard sands; and up the wild sea banks,  
 'Mid ferns and grasses dolorously stirred,  
 Through darkness made their way, until they reached  
 A summit, whence on either hand appeared  
 The dreary Orcad inland bare, and grey,  
 And lifeless, and the solitary sea,  
 Roofed with its rounding cloud, all blank, save where  
 Northward, 'mid rolling mist, one steady star  
 Watched from the pole. Then in its light they knelt  
 And prayed, nor felt alone, for as they prayed,  
 In holy trance divine, the desolate night  
 Became transfigured, and amid the clouds  
 Moon bright and solemn moved, they seemed to see  
 Pure saintly faces smile, and in their folds  
 Majestic, marshalling along the vast,  
 The spiritual armies of the heavens  
 Protecting; and above the mountain tops,  
 A shining hand, as of an unseen Form  
 Celestial, beckoning them into the Isle;  
 Which viewing, all with one accord sang forth  
 A hymn of Christ, first heard beneath the North.  
 But ere the holy music died in night—  
 Lo! through the glooms, a wild maid of the land;  
 Rude-robed, with eyes of bluest wonderment,  
 And bare white feet, advancing timid, led  
 The Sisters to a village in the vale,  
 Where the dark people gave them sanctuary.

And here awhile they dwelt; then issued forth  
Upon their Sacred Mission through the tribes.

Thenceforth for many a season, round the isles  
Of the stern North, pure Ebba and her train  
Moved pilgriming among the wild Norse race—  
The rude Sea Knights of stormy Orcades,  
Whose castles on the cliffs uncouthly loomed  
Over the savage sea; and through the huts  
Of heathy hamlets huddled in grey vales,  
Each rooted by its pine: And night by night—  
Now in some stony fortress hall, amid  
Fierce figures stretched around the windy fire,  
Carousing over bowls of flesh and mead,  
Now whiling the lone heathen night with talk  
Of foray, battle, or maychance with songs—  
Dream ballads, ghostly legends, champion songs—  
Or burnishing their weapons, brand and axe,  
Amid the torches' smoky glare—with smile  
Pure, earnest, and deep soul-breathed utterance,  
Told them the story of the Saviour mild—  
The love-incarnate heart of Deity—  
Whose natal star soft splendouring from the East  
To mankind universal heralded  
The golden dawn of an ennobled life,  
Exemplared by his own—of conquering love  
Ineffable, whose empire on the earth  
Was doomed through endless ages—glorified  
With lights immortal streaming from the heavens,  
Beyond death's shadow and the verge of Time—  
Enduring to expand.

And while she spake, as o'er some gloomly group  
Of giant trees the morning breaks and lights,  
And brooding emanates from golden branch,  
And foliage-hidden blossom, odours sweet,  
Until the space they shadowed erst, glows bright  
And rich the air—so o'er their ruthless brows  
New aspects beamed, new natures quickening stirred,  
Spring like in hearts barbaric; while their souls  
Grew slowly toned to gentler harmonies,  
By her soft speech, and by those sacred eyes.

So year by year from isle to isle they went,  
Diffusing light, and leaving in their track  
The traces of a presence more divine:  
Till slowly all around grew changed; wars ceased;  
Rude chapels rose within the Druid's grove;

And soon, instead of trumps uncouthly blown,  
 Calling the tribes to battle, or the clash  
 Of iron shields upon the fire-lit mound,  
 Dolorously borne through the dim night upon  
 The vast battalions of the viewless winds,  
 Gloomily moving o'er the dismal land—  
 Sweet bells at morn and even fill the air,  
 Sunnily ringing o'er a peaceful realm,  
 Calling to worship, and harmonic blend  
 With happy hearts, as altarward they tend  
 In holy purity serene: while glowed  
 The golden corn beneath the Sabbath sun,  
 While evening's star, that penned the plenteous fold,  
 Beckoned the weary fisher o'er the seas  
 To the calm hearth; or o'er the place of tombs  
 In the dark vale, gleamed to the watcher's eye  
 Symbolic of a home beyond the world.

At length, when many a sun had set upon  
 Her Christ-inspired travel sweet, her soul  
 Resting upon the labour of a life  
 Celestially secure, to Ebba came  
 One last fond wish—to cross the greyish seas,  
 And lay her ashes amid kindred dust  
 Under the soft skies of the old Green Land—  
 Whose convents gleamed by many a sliding stream  
 And herd-strewn pasture—many a castled wood  
 And lone, calm, wild, recluse; where the day shone  
 Through rainy lights upon the Holy Isle—  
 Christendom's northern vanguard. Then it was,  
 As the last night upon the peaceful realm  
 She brightened, rose around with all its stars,  
 And in the rugged creek swung the brown bark,  
 Ready to give her waftage with the dawn,  
 A bright dream came to Ebba as she slept:—  
 A dream of weary pilgrimage across  
 A space with dark impenetrably domed,  
 Until, by slow and painful toil, she reached  
 A summit, whence the wide world opened round  
 Endless and dim. Then, sudden, as she gazed,  
 A splendour seemed to cleave the heavens—she saw  
 The saintly crown drop down through holy air  
 And rest upon her brows, and in its light  
 A gloried future vision of the faith—  
 The Church throughout all lands ubiquitous;  
 Community of souls around the earth,  
 And spiritual empire fixed eterne  
 In sovereign central unity divine;—  
 Imperishable faith, perishless love,



And power hereditary with the Heavens,  
'Mid transitory thrones and shapes of Time.

Then Ebba rose, and voyaged unto her home,  
In prayer, while round the morning goldened coasts  
A mighty congregation praying, gazed  
Upon her barque, until its sail was lost  
In the blue sky : and favouring breathed the wind  
Till the third eve, when in the sunset's depths  
Green hills appeared, and villaged bays beneath;  
And the fresh stars came up the eastern foam  
And brooded o'er the hush of sainted seas.

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## THE STORY OF THE LORD OF TARBERT—1680.

### I.—THE PROPHECY.

CALM and clear shone the April evening o'er  
Tarbert's castle, close by the Shannon's shore,  
Over its turrets rising 'mid oaks in bud,  
Over the azure level of spacing flood;  
Long grey stretching promont full in the light,  
And sails of fisher vessels, distant and white.  
Far away along the remotest main  
Superbest palace vapours of fresh spring rain,  
Billowing, lessened away to the faint low hills;  
The meadows were yellowed with stately daffodils;  
An air from the blossomed orchards was blowing sweet  
O'er the waving expanses of tall rough wheat,  
O'er the shower-wet roofs of the village aflame  
With sunset; over the river hazed in the heat,  
From whose green banks the smell of wild celery came,  
Scenting the humid wind; when Tarbert's lord  
Rode from the porch, and crossing the foamy ford,  
Spurring his black steed's sleek flank, cantered along  
By hedge-lined roadways, humming the musing song  
Of the sweet verses he had written to wile  
The noon, about some imaged mistress's smile;  
Clothing his thought with words, as a branch with leaves,  
Heaping rich fancies together like sun-lighted sheaves,  
Weaving line after line in a harmonised tune,  
Joyous or sad as the waves under the morning or moor

Thus rode he along by ivy-draped park walls,  
Past drifting gusts of drizzling waterfalls,  
And long green caverned forest ways where through  
The wood-cutter plodded cottageward mid the dew,

In the faint slant light, while in the lessening heat,  
Young birds chirped in the twigs round the beech-trees'  
feet;

Past vistas of sloping grey hills drowsed in sleep;  
Dim plains to the east of quietness and sheep;  
Till round a hill's shoulder seaward saw he there  
The last stream of lustre lost on the verge of air;  
Then down a zig-zag path of the clayey ridge,  
In the spring valley, he stopped by a mouldering bridge  
To give his horse a draught of the freshes among  
Large-leaved water-plants skirting the arch that sung  
To the eddies that bubbled and swirled round the buttress  
brown—

Viewing the while the smoke from the distant town,  
Hearing the vesper hymn from a convent afar,  
Viewing 'mid lifting hazes the evening star:  
When, as he turned his horse's dripping head  
Toward the slatey road that forestward led,  
Lo! by an oak in the evening shadows dim  
A beauteous gipsy girl stood gazing at him:—  
Her black eyes lustrous with the voluptuous light  
Of smiles within their lashes, ebon as night,  
Her oval sweet face dusk as the yellowing rind  
Of the olive, ripening in summer sunshine and wind,  
Her teeth like almonds whitely peeled of their skin,  
Flashing 'mid dimples that rippled her cheek and chin,  
Her deluge of blue black hair waved o'er each ear  
From the low level forehead and temples clear,  
Half hid in the hood of the cloak that parting showed  
Her lithesome waist and bosom swelling in bud—  
As with a finger she beckoned the lord to stay  
And hear from her lips his fate ere he rode away.

Lord Tarbert stopped, enchanted in every vein.  
Then, throwing his bridle over his horse's mane,  
Seized the small hand she willingly gave to hold,  
And crossing its hardened palm with a coin of gold,  
Said: "Not for a crown had I missed your form of  
grace,

My darksome beauty in this loneliest place."

"Nor I," she answered, "albeit poor as a weed,  
That smile of your face, in the which my art can read  
Noblest courtsey, courage, and kindness, too,  
And beauty enough to make all women woo;  
Nay—nay—forbear—my lips shall be ne'er but of one  
Be kissed—and ere you kiss them much must be done."

"Then what must I do for that, say, prettiest witch,"  
He whispered. "Hear me," said she, "utter your fate."  
"I shall marry of course a lady wondrous rich,"

He murmured, half with a sneer, and then with a sigh.  
 "Not so," returned she, "married you'll be ere you die,  
 But not to a lady—except a lady am I."  
 Pleased was the young lord's blood, but the doubt in his  
 brain

Broke in a laugh of humour again and again,  
 The while the gipsy, grave as a rock had grown;  
 As dropping his hand she said in a sweet low tone:  
 "Laugh as you will, gay lord, and doubt as you may,  
 The fate I promise for both shall be as I say;  
 Adieu, thanks, and sweet dreams"—and she hurried away  
 Into the thick of the wood and was lost to his sight;  
 As he, back looking, castleward rode through the night.

No more thought Tarbert's young lord of the words he had  
 heard

From the gipsy's rubious lips than the song of the bird  
 In the ivied window up in the tower when he woke  
 In the golden light next morn; when, as down the stair  
 Singing as gaily he strode to a chamber fair  
 Opening over the river and eastern glow,  
 A servitor handed a letter, whose seal he broke,  
 And, standing in rapt peruse a minute or so,  
 Learned that to foreign lands he must hurriedly go,  
 Called by his heart away from his pleasant home  
 To his dearest friend on earth, then dying at Rome.  
 And that same evening as glowed the western ray  
 O'er the blue rolling waves of Kilbaha's Bay  
 His vessel, puffing her sail as Loop Head past,  
 Swept toward the Southern shores with slanting mast,  
 Swift and more swift in the widening ocean blast;  
 Nor thought he more of the girl of the twilight wood  
 Than of the stars that loneliness gleamed on the flood.

## PART II.

O'er Italy's plains and mountains a year had rolled;  
 And the friend he had sought lay hidden in marble and  
 mould;

When once, as Lord Tarbert rode toward the fading day  
 On by the Apennines north, of an evening fair,  
 Just as Venus rose through the streams of air,  
 Lemon-hued under a level roof of cloud,  
 Against which loomed keen summits and castles proud—  
 Lo! o'er Sorrento's vineyards, black from the main,  
 An April tempest gathered—flashed, and passed in rain;  
 And slowly trickled the drops from leaf and spray;  
 The freshes foamed from the piney heights, and around  
 The pale vine blossoms scattered about the ground  
 Filled with sweet the atmosphere cool and grey:

As wet and travel-wearied, lit by a moon in the wane,  
 He stopped for the night at a lonely inn on his way.  
 Swiftly rolled a torrent through poplar ranks a-near;  
 Wood-crested hills above stood black in the sky;  
 The stony road through a rocky chasm wound drear,  
 And drearily swooned the breath of the night wind by;  
 As, stooping under an aged vine that wound  
 Like a snake the narrow doorway, an aged crone  
 Volubly welcomed the traveller all alone;  
 Led his horse to a stable behind, and found  
 Fodder and food for both; and standing a while  
 Attendant, chatted, smiling her withered smile.  
 Then led the youth to a little room with a bed,  
 Whereon o'erwearied, scarce had he laid his head  
 When he slept; and the place was dark, and without a  
     sound  
 Save of his breath, and the dim wind broadening round.

Hours passed away; the moon had set on the plain,  
 And a few stars shone through clouds, when a shudder shook  
 The sleeper; who in the darkness presently woke,  
 And listening heard beside him—a tap on the pane  
 Of the narrow casement; then rising would have spoke  
 But for a clear deep whisper thrilling the gloom:—  
 “Breathe not, Lord Tarbert, or this place is your tomb—  
 Murder is purposed—the hag has gone for them—quick  
 And silently open the door.” His heart beat thick  
 More with amaze than fear, for the voice seemed one he'd  
     known;

Then, dagger in hand, the door he had open thrown—  
 When—marvel mixed with joy—he saw before him there  
 The gipsy girl of the Kerry wood in the starlight fair,  
 Holding his horse by the bridle—listening keen:—  
 But scarce had he clasped her hands in happy surprise,  
 When figures advancing swift on the road were seen.  
 Fain to his heart had he clasped that form grown dear,  
 When a bullet sang by, and then another more near;  
 For his pistols he felt—they were gone. And then as he  
     knew

He was struck in the arm by the hot blood bursting  
     through—

Lifting his saviour girl without more ado  
 Into the saddle and springing behind, he fled  
 In a gallop along the heath to the river bed—  
 Plunged in the current, when after a fight with its strength  
 His good horse sprung up the fronting bank at length;  
 Nor till the girl, who before him light as a wreath  
 Lay clasped, was far away from the whistling death  
 That followed them, drew he the rein or paused for breath.

## PART III.

The months of the summer had passed from their golden  
prime,  
And the lord and the gipsy girl had lived in the clime,  
Travellers and lovers, together most of the time.

One night he wandered by the ancient walls of Rome,  
The brown brick battlements of Tullius overgrown  
With ivy, near the Viminal gate, in the stillness lone,  
Hearing the bleat of sheep on the commons dim,  
The stones from the ruined arches on the boughs and loam  
Falling; now and then the breath of a distant hymn;  
Stars and white clouds lit the austere azure dome,  
As through the straggling foliage of the vine  
The desert night wind fluctuated the red leaves;  
When sudden he saw sitting on a green mound  
Lura, whom he had loved ere on the plain the sheaves  
Gathered in gold embrace; their meetings day and night  
The sweeter because unknown to anyone round;  
And he had told her lately, that away  
Irelandward fate must hurry him some near day;  
And as he came to where beneath a cypress slight  
She sat, weeping upon her dream of yesternight,  
She rose, and viewed him mournfully with those eyes,  
Darker than Hades, and passioned with her sighs,  
The black hair deluging from the dusk sweet brow,  
Where met the twin thin crescents—floating below  
Her Ceres bosom, swelling like milky corn  
Amiable in the exuberant light of morn;  
And in the starry dark and breathless stillness gazed  
Mute as a mœnad statue, one arm raised  
In still expectancy, while the calm oval face  
Seemed paler than pale gold, nor from the full red mouth  
Of blossomed concentration, murmured a sound.  
Till whispered he in her ear what happy both  
Made them, that not for many moons should he return  
To his far Island home; on the which she sprang  
To his embrace the first time since in the south  
They wandered; then the night with her joyous laughter  
rung;  
And round his neck he felt one covetous white arm turn,  
And one play with his hand; and on his cheek her breath  
Of love, that just of late maychance was that of death;  
And then dislinked she stood with eyes of quiet light,  
And lowly beat her heart in her bosom fair,  
Like the leafy listening sound of a tree at night  
Gently stirring inwardly in the air.

Then, after many a pledge had passed between  
 Those lovers under the ruin's ivied screen,  
 And as the half moon rising late in the south  
 Thinly shed on the plain its shrinking light,  
 Lura, happily holding his hand betwixt her own hands tight,  
 Led the young Lord of Tarbert silently through the night  
 Over columns and mounds, till they came to a cavern's mouth.  
 "Come," she whispered, "come till I prove unto thee  
 The fate I told thee of in the far green isle,  
 From which I followed unseen over land and sea,  
 My only guide, sweet love, and the laws of destiny:  
 Now I who by chance have saved thy life, will show  
 How thy life with mine may be blent indissolubly;  
 Come." At the cave he paused a moment to kiss her smile  
 In pleased wonder; then inward paced they slow,  
 At first in darkness, until at length they came  
 Where the moon through a leafy crevasse trembled in flame;  
 When Lura, drawing aside a sleepy bough,  
 Drooped from the wall o'er the basin of a dry well,  
 Drew him down after her. Then as the clear light fell  
 With spots of leafy shade on a marble floor,  
 Lo! it gloried a wondrous treasure of jewels and gold,  
 Piles of coin, vessels and trinkets manifold,  
 Crusted with pearl and diamond opulent.  
 A while in amaze o'er the heap his eyes were bent,  
 For there, in sooth, were riches enough to endow  
 A princess altarward led with diademed brow.  
 Some minutes past, while Tarbert's Lord held dumb,  
 Now gazing on beauty, now wealth; when Lura said, "Come,  
 Dearest, by chance I met thee, by chance I found  
 This treasure unknown to any above the ground;  
 Both are thine own if thou wilt; if not, at least  
 Take, for love of me, this treasure's divided store:  
 To Ireland with thee; think of me in the west  
 As one who saved thy life—one thou wilt see no more!"

.....  
 'Twas a wintry night at the close of this happy year,  
 While the hearts of each to the other had grown most dear,  
 And the moon which had lighted the gipsy girl and her lord  
 O'er summits of ice and vales of vine, and poured  
 Its light on their dangers, love, and golden store  
 Over the Shannon's mouth 'mid clouds of snow  
 Shone on the full sailed whitened vessel that fast  
 Wafted them home where Tarbert's roofs were a-glow,  
 With fires of welcome red, and smiled each room below  
 With plenteous cheer, warm arrased from the blast—  
 Now happy are both as any the moon below,  
 And Lura is Lady of Tarbert's castle at last.

## THE PRISONER OF LIMERICK.

*A Legend of 16—.*

'Twas a hot autumn morn; the Old Town, with its gable  
fronts browned  
Like its stacks of tall chimneys by weather and smoke,  
spreading round,  
Was silent; few moved through the streets where their feet  
had the sound,  
From the height whence I listened, of a grass-hopper's dry-  
tongued song,  
Which stops—shuffles—stops—as they lazily sauntered along,  
Or paused with a neighbour to gossip at window or door,  
Whence their voices came faint as the waves of some far level  
shore.  
At moments a swallow undulating in the void beneath flew,  
A fair cloud unrolling in sunshine, sailed under the blue,  
Throwing shade aslant spire and on roof-top; at times a cock  
crew,  
Half asleep in some dusty dull court, as it were with a yawn,  
All unlike to its stiff-throated sky-splitting carol at dawn.  
And at times from some mouldering belfry, the slow tolling  
hour  
Vibrated in waves along Limerick's high Prison Tower,  
From out of whose iron-barred casement of stone aged and  
grey  
I looked on the shimmering roofs and the hot, hollow day.  
How clearly the slightest things which I beheld at that time  
Come back to me, linked each to each like the lines of a rhyme!  
In one fixed spot before me the dim midges circled in train,  
Slowly floating—now twisting together—now widening again;  
Above me the blue, buzzing, bustling fly beat at the pane;  
Where the sluggish moat deep underneath by the gloom of  
the wall  
Was cut blackly across, I could see the rat stealthly crawl  
Through the garbage and rank, sickly grass; and just from  
its nest's brink  
In the sheer wall, the sparrow's head peep; hear its chirrup-  
ing chink  
To its mate with a worm in its bill on the moat bank below;  
And the town was as still as the plain spreading off in the  
glow,  
When I heard in the narrow room next to his watcher's—  
for I  
Was commissioned to watch him—a sudden nerve-shudder-  
ing cry,  
And swift through the chink, that he knew not of, looked,  
when I saw  
Him gazing at something—his black eyes dilated with awe,

And the terror drops slide from his noble dusk brow—then he  
 fell,  
 The room dimm'd; and above him seemed brooding a shadow  
 of Hell.

Who this Prisoner was I know not, nor have ever I been  
 told :

Three years had rolled on since the winter night windy and  
 cold

When I first saw him pace the next chamber—a tall, pallid  
 form

Erect, pausing now for a moment to list to the storm,  
 As if on its wail there came voices he knew; then before  
 The smouldering fire that threw shadows the colour of gore  
 On his long ebon locks, leaning back in the old iron chair,  
 Till all gloomed, save an amulet sparkling with diamond he  
 wore

Pendant over his heart. The stone chamber was dismal and  
 bare,

Save his couch, table, seat and habiliments, nothing was  
 there;

And yet day and night for long years seemed he never alone,  
 For his thoughts seemed companions, nor except in his sleep  
 came a moan.

Ofttimes he spoke low in a tongue I knew not, for long hours,  
 As addressing in tones of command some invisible Powers;  
 And oft in the darkness, in sooth, I used think there were  
 two

In that black stony space, where this man was alone, as I  
 knew;

Nor was it least strange that, when bringing him food, I  
 used come

Every morn, that he motioned thanks merely, as though he  
 were dumb.

When I first saw this terrible Shadow, I rushed down the  
 stair

To the warder; we entered his chamber; he only was there;  
 And for months he lived just as he had lived, that spectre I  
 saw

Never more, nor was e'er his room darkened with visions of  
 awe;

And already I deemed that this sight was the work of my  
 brain,

Until one winter's night. Twelve had tolled; a thin moon  
 in the wane

Dimly lighted the cold wintry distance all sheeted with snow;  
 Through the darkness a few frosty stars glimmered sadly and  
 low;



On the far stormy hills I could see a wild beacon flame red  
Like a moon cloud-bewildered that glares on some dance of  
the Dead,

And the Town was as hush as the ground; when, amid the  
blank night,

I heard a strange music come swooning around the tower's  
height,

And as I looked into his chamber, amazement and fear  
Possessed me, for, lo! all the chamber seemed filled with a  
light

Pure and living, but awesome, amid which he stood, as to  
hear

The voices that momentarily sung through the darkness more  
near;

And still as I gazed, through the tempest's bewildering hum,  
The trampling of horses seemed nearer and nearer to come,  
Till I heard them beneath in the courtyard. A minute  
scarce past

When the door of his chamber flew open as burst by a blast,  
And a plumed phantom entering joyously, led by the hand  
A beautiful maiden—a Shade from the dim sightless land.

At first on her robe o'er her heart, as she paused at the door,  
There seemed a red rent like a dagger gash, gouted with  
gore,—

But as the soft light deepened round her I saw it no more.

They gazed on each other, they rushed to each other; her  
face

Looking up into his with a tender delight and sad grace,  
To the which I knew nothing to liken but a cloud without  
breath,

Through which shine two stars, hovering over a lake still as  
death,

Imaged silent and fair on the calm. There were whispers,  
faint sounds

Like the echoes of lowest love laughter from twilighted  
grounds:

Then the three disappeared; all was silence; the heavy door  
closed:

For a second, a lingering light, as of vapours faint rosed,  
Curled and dried upon vacancy. Then from the pavement  
below,

As they mounted, the clatter of hoofs muffled in the deep  
snow.

I sprang to the window and gazed where the sounds seemed  
to go;

But all black was the sky as the wide earth was white; the  
air was stirred

As if with some fierce rush of wings, and remotely I heard

A noise like the sound of some troop of swift horse hammer-  
ing on—  
Wild music that faded away to the last star that shone,  
And then, where the sky o'er the low plain gleamed level and  
wan,  
Like a drift of swift darkness, beheld them sweep past—they  
were gone.

The commandant examined the warder and I the next day  
In private, and each to his questions said all we could say,  
And both were dismissed; but the warder, as I have been  
told

Has long lived in Ulster, a man rich in flocks and in gold;  
And as for myself—but there's mysteries, friend, I ne'er can  
Unravel twixt living and dead, while as yet I am man.  
On a night shortly after I dreamed that a treasure lay piled  
In a certain old ruin that well I had known from a child;  
And, awaked, something forced me to search for it: whether  
'twas mine

You may guess: but this tale ever shakes my old nerves—  
pass the wine.

## A LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR'S DAYS.

### I.

ONCE, when King Arthur held his court  
At Camelot, the glorious time  
When through the land from brine to brine  
Old Britain's knighthood shone sublime—

When passed the days in tourney sport  
The nights mid feast and songs divine;  
It chanced, a lady fiend, the wife  
Of Urience, all amort

Of some affront that came of wine,  
Hated the King, and vowed, in short,  
By fanning foes and raising strife,  
By magic, or aught other means  
Such as an injured fair besiens,  
To win her vengeance or his life.

### II.

Just then, as it befell, one day  
The King, with two companions, they  
A knight, Sir Acolyn of Gaul,  
And Urience strong and tall,  
Horsed for the sport, rode swift and gay

From the towered gate fronting the dawn,  
 Through the old oak trees on the lawn;  
 And down a valley green withdrawn,  
     Through Cornwall's forests wide away.  
 'Twas a dim morn, cloudy and still;  
 Sometimes upon a heathy hill,  
 Or yellowing roof of autumn wood,  
 Or hazy space of stretching flood,  
 Flickered awhile a hazy ray;—  
     Then passed, and all the sky was grey.

## III.

A league and more the three had gone  
 Along the monarch's broad domain,  
     By stream and crag and grassy rath,  
     Through branchy copse and forest path,  
 Westward, whence spread the ocean lone  
     Shadowed by slanting drifts of rain;  
 When, sudden from a leafy spring  
 A great hart raised its antlers brown,  
     Glanced—turned and flew, swift as the wing  
     Of cormorant o'er the twilight sea,  
     When thunder mutters gloomily,  
 And on the waves with deepening frown  
 A night of storm looms darkly down.  
 "A chase!" King Arthur cried: "now follow,  
     Knights, to my lead"—and spurred his horse  
     In gallop over glade and gorse—  
 And swift they swept o'er mound and hollow.

## IV.

Hour after hour they held the track  
 Through marshy glen and woodland way,  
 Until King Arthur, who in chase  
 As battle, ever foremost rode,  
     Fast pressing on the wearied prey,  
 Plunged his strong ash spear spouting blood  
     Into the hart's heart, as the day  
 Was sinking, and a tempest black  
     Came breaking o'er the distant bay;  
 When, sidelong leaning from his horse  
 A second time to strike with force,  
 Down from a cliff he fell and rolled  
 Into a wat'ry reach: then gained  
 The bank, all wearied, breathless, maimed;  
     And looking upward and around  
     No egress from the ravine found.

## V.

The grey green level rolling sea  
 Came foaming from the windy east,  
 Whose cope of lurid rainy mist  
 Rose o'er the waters distantly;  
 And with the fresh tide, shock on shock  
 Against the black-ledged stretching rock,  
 The heavy curled billow broke  
 In endless line, and burst in spray  
 Upon its swinging, swollen sway;  
 Till the next stopp'd its backward way,  
 And surging on with hollow boom  
 To shallower coves of clearer grey,  
 Swung fluctuating, merged in foam.  
 Slow mounting up the skyey height,  
 The windy gull on wings of white  
 Poised in the misty depths of light,  
 Or, hovered low athwart the side  
 Of hazy headland in the tide,  
 Nigh whose far point dimly descried,  
 A barque, in the strong distant blast  
 Aslant, with blowing topsails past;  
 Then, as King Arthur watched, drew near,  
 And anchored by a jutting pier  
 Of rock, where on a few oaks brown  
 Bent in the gale, while red as blood  
 A last ray struck the heaving flood:  
 Then the stormy dusk of night,  
 From inland wood and precipice height,  
 Upon the wild blank sea came down.

## VI.

The King, who in the wavy reach  
 Seemed prison-bound, at length with pain,  
 Along the cliffs and round the beach,  
 Now swept with heavy gusts of rain,  
 With slow steps gained the promont's end,  
 And signalled through the spray the barque;  
 Whence soon, through windy haze and dark,  
 A boat with figures many-oared  
 Were seen across the waves to bend;  
 And soon arrived, took him aboard.  
 On which the ship, rehoisting sail,  
 Swept sidelong off before the gale.  
 "Whence are ye bound?" inquired the King,  
 After his misadventure told  
 Unto the helmsman, who, enrolled  
 In sable garb, watched the black wing  
 On which the vessel skirred the foam.

“To Camelot,” the voice replied;  
 “But as the wind too fierce and bold  
 Blows from the shore, Sir Knight, to land  
 On this nigh beech;—be of my mind  
 And quit awhile the rain and cold  
 For our poor cabin, where you’ll find  
 Food served you by our sailor band.”

## VII.

The King descended through the gloom,  
 And soon the cabin awning raised,  
 Stood still with dazzled eyes amazed;  
 For there a festal table, spread  
 With wines and lamps, appeared, and round  
 Six maidens beautiful with bloom  
 Of summer on their cheeks, attired  
 In rich voluptuous robes, who soon  
 With courtesies and looks divine,  
 A silver goblet like a moon  
 Filling with costly crimson wine,  
 Entreated him to drink. The King,  
 Wearied and wet, the beauties pledged,  
 And into converse entered, while  
 One, with a soft alluring smile,  
 Fingering a lyre, attuned its chords  
 To a soft song of lovesome words.  
 But scarce a verse had flown when he,  
 Forgetful of all round him there,  
 The lights, the feast, the lustrous fair,  
 Sunk in a deep sleep heavily.

## VIII.

How long he slept he knew not : when  
 He woke there was a noise of men  
 Upon the deck, and looking round  
 He found him clasped within the arms—  
 His head upon the bosom charms—  
 Of a young beauty; and before,  
 All gazing through the cabin door  
 With looks of strange amaze and sport,  
 The ladies of the Camelot court;  
 And mid them his fair Queen amort  
 With deepest indignation fired,  
 And hot disdain; as by her side  
 The lady Urience cried,  
 Mid laughter gay: “How now, grave King,  
 Is this the mode, when far away  
 From the Queen’s couch, you pass the day  
 In beauty’s soft arms trifling?”

The King sprang up, and through the throng  
 Gaining the deck, beheld that he  
 Had been swift wafted o'er the sea

Up the Usk river where among  
 The oaks the vessel anchored by  
 A verdant bank. Laughters rung around  
 As, all amazed, he sprang aground,  
 Recalling his adventure late—  
 His hunt, his fall, the gloomy barque,  
 His sightless voyage through the dark,  
 The maidens fair, the cup of wine,  
 Deep drugged, he drank when on the brine.  
 Then saw the trick, awhile, dismayed:  
 But calling swift a vassal, bade

Him bring a horse, and rode away  
 To Camelot, his Queen beside,  
 Soon stilled, when, in his knightly way,  
 He told this story to his bride  
 Of Urience's wicked spite.

But she had vanished from their sight,  
 Her vengeance foiled, nor many a night  
 Dared enter Camelot's turrets gay.

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## CASTLE AND BOWER.

(AN OLD SEPTEMBER.)

GREY and grand the castle's tower

Looks along the hazy seas;

Autumn goldens roof and bower,

Autumn perfumes every breeze:

Branchy oaks and solemn larches

Round the gardens weave their shade,

While beneath their dark green arches

Wander curled page and maid:

By the fountain some are pacing,

Some beside the mossy urn;

Scarlet sash and plume of ebon

Waver at each windy turn:—

But hark! anigh, a mingled cry

Of joy and fear is echoing;—

To and fro the figures go

Underneath the branches—lo!

Through the shadows, through the glow

Sways the silken swing.

On a grassy mound o'ershaden

By the mulberry on the lawn

Matron mild and bloomy maiden

In a circle sweet have drawn;

Circle sweet of fairest faces  
 Round an old Dwarf brown, and calm,  
 Who with crooked finger traces  
 Fortunes on each milky palm;  
 Small hands tremble in his seizure,  
 Foreheads glow with bright surprise,  
 As he scans each vein of azure  
 With his sorcerous raven eyes:  
 But all heedless of the weather  
 Changeful destiny may bring,  
 With their hearts and faces glowing,  
 Sash and golden ringlets flowing,  
 Yonder youth and maid together  
 Ply the silken swing.

Now the air is warm and still,  
 And the hay dries in the meadow;  
 Silently the distant hill  
 Is mapled o'er with autumn shadow;  
 Round the misty seaward ridges  
 Whitely sails the lazy gull;  
 Sheep stand by the sultry hedges,  
 Panting with their weight of wool.  
 While through the yellow grained lea,  
 Walks the harvest boy with cheek  
 Ruddy as the apple streak;  
 Hark! he winds his noisy creek,  
 Click-click-a-click—click-click-a-click,  
 Hark he winds his noisy creek,  
 And a yo-ho-ho!—shouts he.  
 Still the Dwarf with finger quaintly  
 Many a tale of fortune weaves;  
 Still the maiden and her lover  
 Swing beneath the sycamore's cover,  
 That around them murmurs gently,  
 Pleased through all its leaves.

Toward the group across the meadows  
 Paces slow a youthful Knight;  
 His eyes of blue are dreamy bright,  
 His forehead touched with pensive shadows;  
 For in fancies sweet and lonely,  
 Wanders he in dreams apart,  
 Musing constantly and only  
 On the lady of his heart;  
 And the matrons smile serenely,  
 And one whispers—"Tell us now,  
 Of this beauty bright and queenly,  
 Whose sweet image charms thy brow!"

Then the youth from sunny grasses  
 Lifts a lute, and with a sigh  
 Strikes a prelude faintly tinkled,  
 'Till the sunny air is sprinkled,  
 Slowly as her image passes,  
 With a memoried melody.

When the youth with aspect lowly  
 Drops the lute, whose music rare—  
 Like a myrrhine odour slowly  
 Dies upon the burning air;  
 And the maidens muse together,  
 Lo! a bronzed cavalier  
 Springs a-foot upon the heather,  
 Bright and shining as a spear;  
 And against the mulberry leaning  
 Bares his forehead to the day,—  
 Glances toward a lady screening  
 From the foliage trickled ray.  
 And as o'er his figure stately  
 Netted lights and flecks of shade,  
 Wink like frolic humours slyly  
 Scattered by some spirit wily,  
 With a golden voice thus featly  
 Trolls a memoried serenade.

## SONG.

## I.

Come, I long to wander wi' thee—  
 Summer time was made for roving,  
 Summer time was made for loving,  
 Come, my sweet, I prythee;  
 And through forest paths and meadows,  
 Through the sunshine and the shadows,  
 Side by side to hearts in tune  
 With the happy, sunny weather  
 We shall wander 'mid the hum  
 Of honied bees and fountains streaming,  
 Whispering sweetest thoughts together—  
 Memories of twilight dances,  
 Darling dreams and frolic fancies,  
 Until o'er the mountain beaming  
 Floats the festal moon:—  
 Come, come, come, come,  
 List, my heart is beating wi' thee,  
 Come, come, come, come,  
 Dear, my sweet, I prythee.



## II.

If you rather love the town,  
 Through its listless long arcades  
 With the gallants and the maids  
 Shall we pace it up and down;  
 Or if wearied thus, we'll wing  
 To some tilt yard's dusty ring;  
 Watch the knights with levelled lances  
 Jousting in the lists, and see  
 Fairest ladies lovesomely  
 Smiling on their plumed advances.  
 Leaving then their frolic war  
 Shall we seek some rich bazaar:  
 There shall critic Cupid choose  
 Tiniest trinkets for thy use,  
 Bracelets, shoe ties, bunched like roses,  
 Scented gloves and rings with posies  
 For those fingers soft and white,  
 Whose designed and dainty pressure  
 Signets ever *sans eraseure*  
 Love's sweet seal on mine at night:—  
 Come, come, come, come,—  
 List! my heart is beating wi' thee;  
 Come, come, come, come,  
 Dear, my sweet, I prythee.

## III.

Lo! some the trumpet wings away  
 To glory on the Lowland plain,  
 And some the golden thirst of gain  
 To wondrous realms of western day:—  
 New regions rich as poet dreams,  
 Where mountains, frosted thick with gems,  
 By fruited woods, like anadems,  
 Flash o'er the broad sun-fountain streams:  
 But, while my comrades cross the sea  
 And others plunge in storm and war,  
 By the light of love's sweet star  
 Would I live my life with thee;—  
 Pacing happily together  
 Through each change of human weather;  
 While within us, and around us  
 Love's rich skies shall light and bound us:—  
 Then, come, fairest, come,—  
 List! my heart is beating wi' thee,  
 Come, come, come, come  
 Dear, my sweet, I prythee.

Thus tuned to noontide's warm dispose  
 The gallant voiced his listless lay;  
 'Till from the splendrous cloud that rose  
   A-south above the level bay,  
 Comes slowly on a floating shower,  
   And folds in vapour hill and plain;  
 The big drops strike on roof and bower;  
   The lake is switched with drifts of rain :  
 Up spring the group and mid the sprays  
   Of thickest foliage make their home,  
 Like nymphs and gods of ancient days  
   Beneath some forest temple's dome;  
 And as the phantom slants its wing  
   Mid disentangling woofs of blue,  
   A while no sound disturbs the wave  
   Of silence, spreading greyly, save  
 From patterings of the leafy dew,  
 Or tonings of some fingered string.

But now the day begins to wane;  
   The forest tops in sunset rolled,  
 Across the hazy wheaten plain  
   Wave from the west farewells of gold :  
 The terrace fountains flame; they see  
   Along the tranquil spacing brine  
 White summits flash, and distantly  
   The purple mountains rippling line;  
 And hear the reapers' rustic hail  
   As through the upland's tented sheaves  
 They wend into their cottage vale  
   Amid the mist and withered leaves.  
 In river reaches thick with reeds  
   The quiet kine are clustered nigh;  
 The crow on inky pinion speeds  
   The levels of the fading sky :  
 And silence spreads on azure wings,  
   Till naught save lowest laughers there,  
 Or music trembled whisperings  
   Breathe through the precious starry air;  
 But hark! the castle bell—they rise,  
   And as they scale its shadowing height,  
   Whence bluely broadening shone the sea,  
   Tinged by eve's planet, splendrously,  
   One sings to the Hesperian skies  
   A parting ditty in their light.

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## THE PEASANT'S PILGRIMAGE.

## I.

ONE morn as through the dewy air  
 The sun rose o'er the eastern flood,  
 A peasant youth and maiden fair  
 Within a hill-side cottage stood;  
 And round them gathered young and old,  
 Tall sires, and mothers grey and mild,  
 And pressed their hands in happy fold,  
 And murmured blessings on each child;  
 For swiftly comes their marriage day,  
 And by the custom of the age,  
 Unto a saintly shrine to-day  
 They'll pace in pious pilgrimage.  
 With faith and love each bosom heaves,  
 And happiness brims every heart,  
 As clustering by the cottage eaves  
 They stand to watch the pair depart.  
 "Good by, good by," the inmates cry,  
 And cheeks are kissed, and hands are pressed:  
 The sunbeams fleck his bronzed neck,  
 And brood upon her gentle breast;  
 And warm and kind the summer wind  
 Before them waves the woods divine,  
 As down the path of purple heath  
 They wander toward the sainted shrine.

## II.

Now onward through the golden morn  
 Above the summer ocean's flow,  
 By side-long fields of poppiéd corn,  
 And sunny winding roads they go.  
 The warm wind busy with the leaves  
 Of tinkling oaks that skirt their way,  
 Comes breathing of the wheaten sheaves  
 That tent the uplands o'er the bay;  
 The smoke of cottage hearths arise,  
 And through the wooded mountain breaks  
 They see, amid the opening skies,  
 The green ravines and purple peaks  
 That look along the harvest land,  
 And shadow many a singing guest;  
 And lapped awhile in noonday dreams  
 Beside a way-side well they rest.

He plucks the flowers that round it spring,  
 And o'er her brow a chaplet weaves,  
 The while their happy whispering  
 Blends with the murmur of the leaves:  
 Till once again by wooded glen  
 And hills that greenly watch the brine,  
 With autumn's sun they wander on  
 Until they reach the sainted shrine.

## III.

"Ah, what!" the peasant cried, "is wealth,  
 That cannot banish care, asthore,  
 Sure we've light hearts, and strength and health,  
 And what can any lord have more;  
 We've song and work for summer's hour,  
 And cottage hearths for winter's cold,  
 And peace is rarer far than power,  
 And love, my Mary sweet, than gold."  
 And as amid the woodland halls  
 They pace from out the noonday flame,  
 He hears the tinkling waterfalls,  
 In sprae accents shape her name:  
 All beauteous things that round him lie  
 He loves to blend with her, and trace  
 In glimmering lake, and golden sky,  
 The tender image of her face;  
 The sun itself is like her crown;  
 He thinks the lustrous stream, that there  
 Through shadows brown, is flowing down,  
 Is like the ripple of her hair;  
 And leaves that stray in crispy play,  
 But fall to make her pathway fine,  
 As softly o'er the forest floor,  
 They wander toward the sainted shrine.

## IV.

Now o'er the distant slopes of heath  
 The sea-ascending mists are ro'led;  
 Now sinks the autumn sun beneath  
 The cooling chasm of pallid gold:  
 Beside the songless forests crown  
 A star looks o'er their dusty way;  
 Above the comfortable town  
 The homely cloud of evening grey:  
 And now beyond the wild ravine,  
 Through branches wet with drizzling rills,  
 In darkness clear and cold is seen  
 The sullen lake and leaden hills

That guard the ruined isle below,  
 And o'er its leafy altar brood,  
 'Mid hermit shadows moving slow  
 Along the sacred solitude :  
 And as before the Cross they stand  
 Through breathless spaces of the night,  
 The river murmurs glad, the land  
 Breathes round in desolate delight;  
 And clear and far each spirit star  
 That sparkles through the depths divine,  
 Seems pausing there to hear the prayer  
 They murmur by the sainted shrine.

## v.

Oh, sacred is the watch they keep,  
 Throughout the live long night alone,  
 In holy silence calm and deep,  
 They worship till the stars are gone;  
 And day flits past in wandering dreams,  
 O'er lessening lengths of road, till down  
 The western steeps sweet heaven seems  
 To smile above their straw-thatch'd town,  
 Where welcome rings amid the glow  
 Of yellow evening clear and still,  
 And dear old faces smile below,  
 As they ascend the homeward hill :—  
 Come maidens wreath the village doors  
 With greenest leaves, above, beneath;  
 And deck the walls and strew the floors  
 With apron full of blossomed heath;  
 And twine the bridal crown of corn,  
 And leave it in the starlit air,  
 Until the freckled autumn morn  
 Shall touch it, and the youthful pair,  
 'Mid joyous eyes, and happy skies,  
 And singing birds, and breathing kine,  
 Along the ways of olden days  
 Shall pace unto the Marriage Shrine.

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 THE SEA SERPENT.

## I.

UPON the level of the midnight sea  
 Rested the blue dome of immensity,  
 Spangled with starry clusters innumerate;  
 Save to the east where lay a line of clouds  
 Foam pale, but indistinct as unguessed fate;  
 As stately the full sailed ship cleft through  
 The waste of heaving blue.

Beneath the swinging oil lamp's yellow glow,  
 Over his charts, the captain bent, below;  
 Calmly secure, whence'er a wind should blow:  
 The sailors sang at the helm, and in the shrouds.

## II.

Three bells had gone, a dark cloud dimmed the moon,  
 That underneath the wave would vanish soon;  
 And in the solemn darkness before dawn  
 All, save the helmsman, slept; when in the wake  
 A strange and rushing sound turned his cheek wan;  
 And looking o'er his shoulder, he beheld  
 A something black that swelled  
 And lengthened far away, while all around  
 The monstrous head advancing, bound on bound,  
 A storm of surge and watery thunder's sound  
 Bursting the sea calm, caused his heart to quake.

## III.

The last light of the moon was glimmering drear,  
 As on the lonely ocean it drew near  
 Sending a mountain ridge of billows before;  
 And straight behind the heaving stern he saw  
 The million headed hydra black and frore  
 With crest enormous o'er the surge, and eyes  
 Yellow in moonlight rise;  
 And—as it shouldered aside and thundered past,  
 The seas, foam maddened by the rushing blast  
 Of its swift motion—sloaky masses vast,  
 Of serpent black, ravenous with mouth and claw.

## IV.

Innumerable monsters joined in one  
 Writhed from its sides and hissed its back upon,  
 Erect with rage, or sleek with black disdain,  
 Fierce eyed and multitudinous, bursting forth  
 Horrered for one dread mile the shaken main.  
 But on the monster's brow risen from sleep  
 Rested the awe of the deep:  
 And round it spread a shadow and a breath  
 Cold as the ice, and imminent as death,  
 As dawn with moonlight mingled, from beneath  
 Broadening, beheld it vanish toward the north.

## V.

Stiffened with dread and dumb the helmsman stood,  
 As through that long black valley in the flood  
 The last huge monster of the early world,  
 Shook the great seas with unaccustomed fears:  
 And dumb remained when morning's crimson curled

Over the vast; nor spake he 'till death's hour  
 Of it, whose shape of power,  
 Sleeps underneath the sun and moon, alone  
 In polar oceans' solitudes unknown,  
 Mid alps of ice, lulled by the tempest's moan—  
 Then, but to man appears, once in a thousand years.

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## SKELETON STORIES.

### No. I.—THE PHANTOM SHIP.

I've sailed sixty years around the earth,  
 With the stars, sun, and moon,  
 'Till more familiar far than the faces of my hearth  
 They have grown to me; and better known the tune  
 Of the winds and the waves in their calm and stormy mirth  
 Than the voices I must leave for ever soon;  
 And many a yarn I've heard that the blood within me stirred,  
 But ne'er a one so strange as this I heard from a sea loon,  
 Which I'll tell you as he told it, word for word.

. . . . .

Ten long voyages made the good ship Lorm  
 From Dublin to Peru;  
 Yet never lost she spar or topsail in a storm,  
 So bounteously the fair winds blew  
 Through the circles of the climates cold and warm;  
 Nor did ever shadow sadden her gay crew,  
 But when passing St Roque's Bay; where, whether night or  
 day,  
 Loomed in sunshine or in darkness the dim form  
 Of a lonely soulless vessel under weigh.

All mouldering seemed this sailorless dim barque,  
 And rotten to the core;  
 For, as often sailing near her they could mark  
 How her weary timbers sighed and creaked sore;  
 How her hull was overgrown with seaweed dark,  
 And her withered sails and shrouds the semblance bore  
 Of a dead man's skin grown grey, and worn with wind and  
 spray,  
 As she drifted o'er the waters, black and stark  
 On her purposeless and solitary way.

To all aboard the vessel Lorm, this sight,  
 Like a dream of phantasy,  
 Whether coming in the noon day or the night,  
 Was worse than any tempest cloud could be;

For some grew sick, and some grew mad outright,  
 'Till her shape was lost betwixt the sky and sea:  
 And once the Captain said, with hands pressed to his head—  
 "By the Lord, when next she heaves upon our lea  
 I shall board her though she bear me to the Dead."

It befell one night when they were homeward bound,  
 Off St Paul's, ten leagues or so,  
 When the tropic moon was full and the sea calm around,  
 That a sudden straight before them shone a glow,  
 And a sudden all anear there rose a sound,  
 And they saw her swing at anchor to and fro.  
 Then the Captain furious eyed to the mate beside him cried—  
 "Man the launch;" and soon the crew were seen to row  
 Toward the vessel, and to clamber up her side.

When they came upon the quarter, covered thick  
 With emerald weed and shells,  
 Where they felt their feet each step to sink and stick  
 In the sludgy-crust'd timber's humid cells,  
 Where the water gurgled with a dismal glick,  
 And below, most like the drowning sound of bells;  
 Lo! the Captain leading on, tumbled o'er a Skeleton,  
 Which, as both sprung up together, settled quick  
 On his shivering arm its white claws strong and wan.

It stood a moment fronting him, with hold  
 On his arm as iron fast,  
 Staring on him from its bony sockets cold;  
 Seeming 'wildered, as one wakened from the past;  
 Then dragged him on where heaps of bones and gold  
 Lay strewn together round the mizen mast;  
 And although his bravery had been tried on many a sea,  
 As it hugged him down the hatch he strove aghast—  
 While across the ocean swept a mighty blast.

Then the crew, who stood like statues, cried aloud—  
 "Let us save him, or he's dead,"  
 But a paralyzing prickling, like the stinging of a nowd,  
 Stiffened every limb and checked their forward tread;  
 And but one there was that, crawling o'er the hatchway,  
 bowed,  
 Looked below; when, through a glare of ghastly red,  
 He saw the Captain stand 'mid a hideous Demon band,  
 And before him on his hunkers, like a Z,  
 The Skeleton imploring with each hand.



" 'Tis six hundred moons this night," he heard it say,

" Since those bones, without a bier,  
Took ship from Dublin city, bound away  
To Janeiro, with my only daughter dear;  
And prosperous was our voyage, until the day  
Yon pirate ghost that, still with ghastly leer  
O'er her pallid beauty gloats, boarded us and cut all throats  
Saving hers, whose airy cries I still must hear  
Ever while this lonely doomed vessel floats.

" Though I lay upon the deck dead and cold,  
Yet knew I what was done,  
By those pirates in their hellish cabin hold,  
All that dread night, and for yet another sun;  
How the treasure-chests they rifled of their gold,  
How they rioted to madness—every one—  
Then with pistol and red blade, fought together for yon maid;  
But what passed in that black hour can ne'er be told—  
Until, save their leader, all in blood were laid.

" As they fought, meanwhile, their barque in a great wind  
Was lost upon the wave;  
And this vessel, with its dead ones, floated blind  
O'er the pathless waste of ocean like a grave;  
Only she and yonder monster left behind.

For two days I heard him curse and heard her rave;  
Then silence lived below, and I only heard the flow  
Of the seas of the world o'er which the vessel drave,  
Back and forward 'twixt the realms of fire and snow.

" Oh! save us from this doomed life of death, good human  
soul,

Let us rest in the deep.  
Nor drift, a sight accursed, o'er the brine from pole to pole;  
But let the ship be sunk that, we who mourn may sleep  
In the quiet of the ocean, 'till the judgment thunders toll,  
When—as all have sown, so surely shall they reap."  
But as round the Captain gazed, with dread his eyes were  
glazed—

Even to his inmost marrow seemed his very soul to creep,  
And without voice or motion for awhile he looked as crazed.

For gazing at the cabin's end he saw,

Half in water and half out,  
A man, who by some fearful ocean law,  
Underneath had grown into a fish with snout,  
Shark-like, that grasped with one finny paw  
The phantom of a woman fair about,  
Who writhed in silent pain regarding him, her bane,  
While round them mowing moved a hideous rout,  
Blood-red, like clouds about a moon, in wane,

Then the Captain prayed a prayer, deep and long,  
 Till his heart was filled with might;  
 And he cried—"God, God, God!"—in a voice holy and strong;  
 When a lightning bolt, descending through the night,  
 Burst the bottom of the vessel; and the throng  
 Of hideous demons vanished from his sight.  
 All save the phantom wan, who toward the Skeleton  
 Floated gently with a murmur like a song;  
 And with a pure smile seemed to rest his neck upon.

Up rushed the gurgling waters from below  
 With thirsty thundering swoar;  
 And the Captain quickly reached the deck, I trow,  
 Where his men believed they ne'er would see him more;  
 And in time they gained their boat, for to and fro  
 The sinking vessel swung, and the winds were in a roar;  
 Then all hands pulled their best o'er the midnight ocean's  
 breast,  
 To their own good ship, whose lights began to grow  
 Faint and far along the surges toward the west.

And as they rowed, ten minutes scarce had sped,  
 When, on the sinking deck,  
 Gleamed the Skeleton's tall, ghastly frame and head,  
 And the Phantom's, with her arms about his neck,—  
 Like a moon shiny cloud behind a tree that's dead;  
 And as the waves rose round, though dwindling to a speck,  
 Still seemed to smile afar o'er the black seas like a star;  
 Nor 'till they reached their vessel in the deeps were buried.  
 A strange tale, messmates, this, methinks, as e'er was told  
 by tar.

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## No. II.—OLD TOR QUID'S YARN.

### I.

'Twas in the spring of Seventeen Eighty-eight,  
 That our vessel, having got aboard our freight,  
 Dropt down the Liffey in as fair a wind  
 As ever bellied sail. To India we  
 Were bound, and of the Cerise I was mate.  
 The fifth day Finisterre was left behind:  
 At Cadiz for a week we shipped with wine,  
 And holding thence our course along the brine  
 Off bleak Cape Blanco met a gale; but fate  
 Passed o'er us 'till we reached the Southern Sea;  
 And then for three weeks more we never sighted shore,  
 But straight abreast the Atlantic trades went scudding gal-  
 lantly.

## II.

At Cadiz, as I just forgot to tell,  
 We took aboard some passengers as well—  
 All British they; a gentleman of wealth,  
 Named Astor, with his servants, and also  
 His doctor and his daughter, Pauline Fell;  
 A beauty she, but with a look of stealth  
 And pride and sorrow in her brow and face.  
 Upon the quarter oft I'd seen her pace  
 Of evenings, when the sky was black as hell  
 With tempest, and when all had gone below,  
 With sullen tigress' tread in the gloom that grew like lead,  
 Staring norward through the darkness o'er the lurid billows  
 flow.

## III.

As by the round-house fire we talked at night,  
 Many a curious matter came to light;  
 For, of Master Astor speaking, we were told  
 This rich man loved the doctor's daughter fair,  
 Who loved an English youth with all her might,  
 Whom Astor, it was said, had bought with gold  
 To give her up and stay at home, while he  
 Bore her to India with him o'er the sea;  
 But, though he loved her for beauty rare,  
 We saw both by her manner, angry and cold,  
 The wrong he'd done her stirred her wrath in glance and word,  
 And made her look, when near him, like a wild beast in a  
 lair.

## IV.

One eve, when Isle Ascension was in view,  
 And sea and sky were all one gold and blue,  
 I stood to the wheel awhile; and as they leant  
 Together o'er the bulwark, chanced to hear  
 The Master Astor this fair lady woo.  
 "You say," said he, "your will shall ne'er be bent?"  
 "Never!" she cried. "Then, by the Lord, you fear,"  
 He hissed, "since thus you spurn me, mark me well,  
 I swear it by the Heavens and by Hell,  
 From which I own a dread, unnamed spell,  
 If mine you shall not be, alive, upon the sea  
 My skeleton shall yet embrace your beauty, Pauline Fell."

## V.

No more he spoke, but went below. The day,  
 As in those climes, died sudden; far away  
 A black cloud sprang up from the west, and soon  
 With it a wind; all sail was taken in,  
 And all made taut, the decks cleared right away.

On came the storm, and through the clouds the moon  
 Plunged like our vessel 'mid the tempest's din.  
 That midnight, when 'twas blowing a full gale,  
 And I had gone below, a figure pale  
 Passed me, but as she passed me smiled gay;  
 And in the cabin's gloom, then lightless as a tomb,  
 Was lost. Why 'twas I know not, but my instinct boded sin.

## VI.

Next morn, before a sudden, mighty blast  
 The ship turned beam end on; the mizzen-mast  
 Was cut away, and for a time we tried  
 To wear the ship, in which a leak then sprung  
 Showed five feet in the hold. The lead was cast  
 And but ten fathoms found. Just then there sprung  
 A cry, that Master Astor, too, had died,  
 Which made each man that heard it stand aghast,  
 For 'twas from her he wanted for his bride:  
 We saw her father, while his hands he rung,  
 Speak with her, but the fear of shipwreck was so near,  
 And thick the sky, but little heed we spared to aught beside.

## VII.

An hour scarce past, when came a fearful shock,  
 As struck our ship upon a bank or rock  
 Some ten miles eastward of Ascension's coast.  
 The waves washed over the Cerise, yet still  
 She held together firm as in a dock.  
 Though water-logged and wholly helpless, till  
 Next morning; when, through vapours, like a ghost,  
 A sloop appeared and presently hove to.  
 And in her boats our passengers and crew  
 Were ta'en aboard;—all save the man late dead.  
 Thence, in the Billow's King, we sailed on the wind's wing,  
 Till o'er the surge of Pondicherry England's flag waved red.

## VIII.

There waiting for a barque we stayed awhile,  
 Nor heard I more of Pauline Fell, whose smile  
 The hour of Astor's death ne'er left my sight,  
 But in the Argus from Madras took sail  
 For England; when one evening to beguile  
 The time, when talking of that fearful night  
 She passed me; an old comrade, growing white,  
 Told me, that on the eve of that same gale

He saw her mix a something in the cup  
 Of wine, that Astor presently drank up;—  
 But this he thought all fair, in the doctor's daughter there,  
 Till the guineas three she gave him made him doubt that all  
 was right.

## IX.

Our homeward voyage round the Cape was slow,  
 From baffling winds, and fogs, and storms of snow;  
 At length the icebergs dwindling in the sky,  
 Gave us our rest o' nights again; and on  
 Across the bounding trade wave's azure flow  
 We saw our ship, all canvas-crowded, fly  
 Under the spangling stars and flaming sun.  
 Nor was it 'till again we voyaged by  
 Ascension that a storm began to blow,  
 Or that we spoke a barque our lea upon,  
 Which passing told us how, under our larboard bow,  
 A wreck had sunk, whose passengers they'd rescued—all save  
 one.

## X.

That night spread dark with tempest o'er the main,  
 The thunder roared, through deluges of rain,  
 When, scudding under bare poles with the storm,  
 We heard the foretop cry—"Look out—a wreck!"  
 And forward running I was first to gain  
 The shrouds, when I beheld—I knew her well—  
 The old Cerise's hull, and on its deck  
 Amid the surge a white boned skeleton,  
 That clasped in its arms a female form,  
 Which, by the Heavens, I swear was Pauline Fell!  
 'Twas but a moment when the lightning shone  
 They passed—then all was black—the terror'd sight was gone.

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 THE PURSUIT.

## I.

As down the steeps of twilight drop'd the sun seaward,  
 Over tower and mountain shining yellowly,  
 In a haze of glory mistily a-leaward  
 Marked I there one sable barque scud up the burning sky.

## II.

Then up my sail flew swiftly, swelling to the masthead;  
 O'er the waters night-ward dimly breasted we,  
 As across a cloud-rack dusk and thunder blasted,  
 Flies, a demon in his wrath, to meet an enemy.

## III.

Oh! well I knew his aspect black amid the glory,  
 As we came with darkness on, up stood and shouted he—  
 He that in my homestead glared so fierce and gory,  
 O'er my brother's lurid visage stooping on his knee.

## IV.

The helm in hands of vengeance steadily I guided  
 O'er the kindling surges, across the windy sea,—  
 As the last black billow like a monster glided  
 Under, like a ball of battle midships thundered we.

## V.

In a cry of curses side to side we swung them  
 In that sea of fury, whence no soul could flee,  
 Cleft them down in bloody heaps, and o'er the bulwarks  
 flung them—  
 Flung the murderous masses down to putrify the sea.

## VI.

Upon the bloody quarter, when the fight was ending,  
 Throat to throat and dirk to dirk two grappled—I and  
 he,—  
 As I jerked him through and through I heard a sound  
 ascending,  
 And double darkness round us twain rose upward from  
 the sea.

## VII.

We raised a shout of triumph—it dumb'd upon the water;  
 I know not why our triumph cry fell down so drearily—  
 But, leaping all we left the barge, just as the tempest caught  
 her,  
 And saw her 'mid the lightened foam drift blindly down  
 the sea.

## VIII.

Oft now in dreams of tempest gleam their faces nigh us;  
 And often after night's carouse, when deckward clamber we,  
 All view that demon'd ship pass like a drift of midnight by us,  
 Or in dark dawns or stormy moonlight hanging on our lea.

---

 THE FIEND FACE.

In a crimson-curtained chamber, hung with many a floating  
 light,  
 And with many a picture glowing,  
 And with many a mirror bright,  
 Young Lord Otho, pondering, paces in the still midnight.

Up and down the silent vista, from the broad and ashy hearth,  
     To the lattice, where the beaming  
     Of the moonlight lies a dreaming;—  
 There he stops, and looks across the shadows on the earth.

Far beyond the bronzed wood, amid the moony haze appear  
     Lowly lines of purple hills,  
     And gleams of ocean, steely clear,  
 Lying on the umbered lowland, like a glimmering spear.

But with deadly eyes he gazes down the depthy river space,  
     Where against the pallid vapour  
     Lies the castle's turret trace,  
 On the cliff that glooms the waters with its ebon face.

There within her perfumed chamber Lady Sycroil slumbers  
     newly;

    She, who won his heart, and after  
     Turned her smiles of love to laughter,  
 When a richer suitor glittered, whom she married duly.

She, who played upon his spirit with a seeming pure devotion,  
     Till the heart within his bosom  
     Toward her turned in worship motion ;

She, who was his orb of life, and swayed him as the moon the  
     ocean.

She, who uttered words of loving, fervently as heavenly  
     prayers—

    Turned, and mocked his helpless fury,  
     Scorned his passion and his prayers,  
 Like some cold, insensate demon, one might cling to unawares.  
 Like to something, 'mid the shipwreck one might cling to  
     desperately;

    But who finds when safe, rejoicing,  
     'Tis a demon of the sea—  
 Hears its mock while down the depthy deadly waters plunges  
     he.

Pondering, then his brow grows darker, curses on his lips are  
     waking.

    'Tis her nuptial night;—grief, passion,  
     Pride have kept his heart from breaking;  
 Sudden comes revenge to trample out his spirit's aching.

Wilder, hotter seethes his hatred—when a-sudden he's be-  
     thought him

    Of the dagger, diamond-pointed,  
     In blue venom thin anointed,  
 That in the reedy Roman town, from a poor noble he had  
     bought him.

Toward the ebon cabinet, where the hellish steel is shrining,  
 Eager and black-browed he hurries—  
 In the ward the key he buries—  
 Lo! the lank and subtle steel in his fierce hand is shining.

And what is this he drops?—a something round that black  
 sheath tangled;  
 'Tis a braid of her rich hair,  
 That in the sunny morning air  
 Floated round her stately neck, with nuptial jewels spangled.

And he holds it as it were some tempting demon-sent illusion;  
 And he cries, amid fierce laughter,  
 Muttering round each gilded rafter,  
 “Scarcely need I *this*, methinks, to sting my soul for retribu-  
 tion.”

Quick as vengeance is resolve; and thus he wills it, that in  
 th' morning—  
 Stirring greyly now—in habit  
 Of a hooded monk adorning,  
 While he shrives her he will deal a slight sharp penance for  
 her scorning.

Now he dons the gloomy robes; his heart on fire with hate and  
 rancour—  
 Reckless he of time or future—  
 Still will lurid memory hanker,  
 In his trampled pride, till vengeance eats away its canker.

Now he's garbed for his dread venture. But, his hooded  
 forehead bareing—  
 As he glances toward a mirror,  
 Something strikes his eyes with terror—  
 Stead of his, a face of fiend amid its depths is glaring.

Ha! it is his seething brain that conjures up this fiery phantom—  
 Or the imaged lamp perchance;—  
 No fancy from revenge must daunt him—  
 No face, though 'twere the sovereign fiend's, that yet across  
 the earth may haunt him.

But why thus ponder, idiot, fool?—again he'll look; he is no  
 shaker;  
 “God!—this is some hellish error!”—  
 Once again he meets the mirror—  
 Falls upon his feeble knees, and prays in terror to his Maker.



## UNA.

## I.

BESIDE the February coast, o'erblown  
 And bleak, remote from hamlet and from town,  
 Arose the aged house of mouldering stone,  
 Where, day by day, the season's smile and frown,  
 Insensate to her woes, had flitted by;  
 For, since she watched through autumn's bronzed light,  
 Her lover's topsail sink in hazy night;  
 Beneath the dewy ocean's ruddy dawn,  
 The swallow flocks had drifted up the sky;  
 The snows grown less along the hills withdrawn,  
 And April's cloudy arm of dropping rain,  
 And lights of silent summer on the plain.

## II.

In that sad casement, turned to the sea-south,  
 Where stood one oak, rock-rooted, land-ward bent,  
 She'd known the heathy moor grow brown with drought,  
 And heard the sparrow in his crevice-rent  
 Chirp through the heat; then o'er the evening reef  
 The billows roll, and the retreating sea  
 Wane o'er its disk of sand, as, windily  
 Rose the moon on the plain; and then, once more  
 Wild winter deepened o'er her brow of grief,  
 Hopelessly brooding by that desolate shore,  
 Where comrade she had none in heat and cold,  
 Saving a woman, deaf, and very old.

## III.

"Alas! my heart," she mourned, "moon and moon  
 Has filled and died throughout the dreary year,  
 And heavy winter will have vanished soon,  
 And spring will come, but come without him here;  
 Would with that cloud I watched so many hours  
 Yesterday, moveless in the bitter breeze,  
 'Twere mine to sink beneath those gloomy seas,  
 Looking upon them for my lover's barque  
 Whether the wintry storm released its powers  
 Or folded them in calm, through day or dark;—  
 Happier should I be searching anywhere,  
 Than in this lone uncertain home of care."

## IV.

All through the night the snow had fallen thick,  
 Blown with the sea-wind on her chamber pane,  
 While by the desert hearth she listened, sick  
 With dread, or dozing, soon awaked again

To hear the chimney funneling wind, the roar  
 Of the hoarse sea remote, beneath its break  
 Along the wild beach; fancying sounds of wreck,  
 And voices in the tumult and expanse;  
 But, when dull morning came she paced the shore  
 Now silent, after night's tempestuous trance,  
 Looking along the waves—in every cove  
 For what fear pictured, magnified by love.

## V.

Sometimes, all indistinct in cruel haze,  
 A rock far off would seem a stranded ship,  
 Until through vapours over distant bays,  
 A sheaf of beams disclosing it, would slip;  
 And, wandering still along the forlorn coast,  
 From height to height she look'd along the waves,  
 Hours many, searching through the sunless caves,  
 Or, thinking, past some headland too remote  
 To reach, may chance her lover's pallid ghost  
 Waited for burial, by some o'turned boat,  
 Watching the corse, with face turned to the sand,  
 And, as sea-struggling still—one out-thrown hand.

## VI.

At noon the lurid roof of cold cloud clears,  
 And through the still dead air a flake or two  
 Flutters of falling frost; and dimly wears  
 The day toward eve; when from the vacant blue  
 Illum'd by heaps of horizontal snow,  
 Whose pinnacles reflect their fading light  
 Upon the waters spacing toward the night,  
 And heathy spined hills and isles afar,  
 A vague and icy wind begins to flow;  
 And palely glimmers the one western star  
 Over the silent earth and spacious sea,  
 Wrapped in cold whiteness and calm purity.

## VII.

A kind of piteous calmness for a space  
 Came to her bosom, born of that still scene;  
 But night was falling, and with quickened pace  
 She homeward turned beneath the shadowing screen  
 Of lofty cliff; and threading her dim path  
 Along the shore, amid the vapours grey,  
 Taking what seemed the nearest, lost her way.  
 And wandering thus confused, the eager tide  
 Moon-swayed at full, began to roll in wrath,  
 Through rocky channels from the sands beside,  
 When wading now through the impetuous wave,  
 Breathless, she gained the porch of a dark cave.

## VIII.

And clinging to the inward rocky ledge,  
 Deemed herself fearfully secure; the arch,  
 Inward shelved sidelong like a ruined bridge,  
 Anear her; and her lips began to parch,  
 Seeing the ever-swelling billow burst  
 Through the cave mouth, and from the watery gloom,  
 Regurgitant with hollow awful boom,  
 Wash o'er her feet; and thus she clasped the cliff  
 Desperate, heedless of the coming worst,  
 When the low snowy moon disclosed a skiff  
 Drifting without, athwart the silver line  
 Of lustre—past the cavern—down the brine.

## IX.

And she was thinking, as the orb arose,  
 How soon the tide would ebb, when on its swell,  
 Something came floating, impassive in repose—  
 Even to her feet—and fixed as by a spell,  
 She gazed upon it, drifting past the rock,—  
 The limbs—and then the face upturned in the beam—  
 The face—ah, God! whence that despairing scream?  
 And now her place gleams vacant in the glare  
 Of the cold moon just rounded—and the shock  
 Alone of sullen surges from the drear  
 O'ershadowing ocean rises with the roar  
 Of a great wind along that lifeless shore.

## BEFORE THE BATTLE:

## THE EVENING.

THROUGHOUT the day the troublous air was dim  
 And silent, save along the ocean rim  
 Where the far hum of tempest seemed to brood,  
 Hymning a cold and surfy murmurous hymn.

At eve the sky cleared blueely overhead;  
 But o'er the place there seemed to hang a dread  
 Of some strange trouble, as from out the wood  
 I paced along the dismal river bed.

Long feathery slips and clouds of windy woe,  
 Slept faint beyond the inland space a-glow  
 With dots of straw stack, stubble streaked with sun,  
 And bosky thickets ridging brown and low.

While bridging o'er the bay, from cape to cape,  
 A dim grey cloud of vague and ribbed shape,  
 Like some enormous phantom skeleton  
 Of pterodactyle, seemed to stretch and gape

For prey unto the void. Seaward, a screen  
 Of rugged reefs of granite slanting keen,  
 Rise in grey air, whence, landward earth begins  
 To flesh its giant rocky bones with green.

Where the long valley fronts the setting day,  
 A sombre fire touches the river's way  
 Through furze and moss mound, on until it wins  
 A glaring, shelved landslip, red with clay;

And following further where its course divides  
 In sodden marshy patches, sleekly glides  
 Through matted sedge and rush, until it burns  
 Upon the sullen pool where it abides

Under a grey old mill whose broken wheel,  
 Idle, and gapp'd with time, has ceased to reel,  
 And hangs moss-rusted where the streamlet turns,  
 Where flaggers in the downward current sweet,

And marrish weed in swirling streaks a-nigh  
 Floats on the windy ripples drifting by.  
 Around, the dim-air ruffles shrub and grass;  
 Far-off is heard the glimmering curlew's cry

O'er shingly ledges and through humid caves,  
 Where the sleek-swinging billow mounting lavcs,  
 Bearing the dim light on its ridge of glass;  
 And showery ringing of the shoreward waves

Sounds from the beach. Whirring though twilight glooms,  
 Now o'er th' uneasy grass the beetle booms:

The long crow-lines push through the dusking height:  
 Monotonous with moan of tempest dooms.

The far grey sea-line sounds, sullen and frore;  
 The broad wind rising gusts with foamy roar;  
 Late birds in scattered flocks in the last light  
 Fly o'er the fields and hedges from the shore.

The last leaves sail the void; the last pale glow  
 Beneath the blank ridge of the earth sinks slow;  
 The hills and fields are blotted out, and night,  
 With tempest and with darkness, sinks below.

#### THE NIGHT.

So died the eve; but when from out the panes  
 I looked at midnight through the clearing rains,  
 Roused by the call of trumpets lost in wind,  
 Drear tumults, and the tramp of martial trains,

I saw beyond the river's spectral trees—  
(As one ere tempest or in vision sees

The hills with thunder's dark encampment lined,  
Or by the ghostly moon in gloom and breeze,

Squadrons of shadowy, silent horse beneath,  
Ridging in phantom lines some dreary heath)—

A host in ordered silence muster dark;—  
War's living cloud and thunderbolt of Death,

Who held in iron silence the dark ground,  
Who ere the next noon rolled in fire and sound,

In terrors triumphing, or, cold and stark,  
Should pile the earth in many a bloody mound;

For, past the dull hills sloping to the sky,  
The glare of fires proclaimed their foemen nigh.

The rains beat; all the dolorous upper air  
Seemed moved with presages of eternity;

And where the waves along the night sky roll,  
Lo! the red moon, like a blood-stained soul,

Seemed trembling 'twixt two trembling worlds to hear  
The earthquake horologe of Doomsday toll.

## THE DEATH STORM.\*

### I.

FAR beyond the blue skies, in the vast spirit spaces,  
In the realm of the Dead, where the earth's vanished races  
Are scattered like leaves in the winter of Time,  
In the shadow of God mantling o'er them sublime;  
The dusk phantom Armies of many an age  
Rest apart in the gloom of their life's heritage;  
An innumerate Host, like the clouds that deform  
The wild broken north ere the burst of the storm.  
Still Spirits of Force, through yon infinite void  
Rolls their power when some region is changed or destroyed.

### II.

Hark! a sound swoons along, and a shade, such as rolls  
On a world in eclipse, blankly drifts o'er their souls!  
How now—what has roused them? Some tidings of War  
Ringing over the plains of yon red mighty star?  
Lo! it spreads like a meteor gathering light  
As it speeds, from the populous tracts of the night

\* It is well known that storms of unprecedented severity occurred during the deaths of Cromwell and Napoleon.

To the pale distant moons lying low in the gloom  
 Of a broad orb, like lamps in a desolate tomb.  
 What shout the long shadowy ranks that are flying ?  
 "To the Earth, to the Earth—our Emperor's dying."

## III.

Now are they mustering fiercely and fast,  
 Squadrons and armies glance gloomily past ;  
 Others arise in the wastes of the night  
 Like thunder mists surging in storm-lurid light  
 From the dim sea—and they mingle their cry—  
 "'Tis many an age since we hovered thus nigh  
 To our old battle-fields. No, not since the hour  
 Since we marched through the clouds to *our* spirit of power,  
 That steel-breasted Chieftain, quaint, holy, and dark,  
 Who lopped the pale head from the English monarch.

## IV.

Now greetings are mingled with hollow strange laughter,  
 Now war-chants are echoed by lines hurrying after,  
 Now old battle memories, such as were dwelling  
 In souls for long æons the heroes are telling;  
 Crying their tempest tales bloodful and many,  
 Of fierce grey Pharsalia and noble-strewn Cannæ  
 Bosworth and Blenheim ; while at the disaster  
 Of red Waterloo the van ranks hurry faster;  
 But each one is vaunting his glory and labour,  
 And birth to the sky-world by cannon and sabre.

## V.

In a steep island wild, waste, and rocked-serried  
 'Mid the sea's loneliness, weak and life wearied,  
 Lies the great Chieftain. Within the low room  
 Stand a few in the silence and shadow of doom.  
 The death-dews are chill on that high brow of power,  
 Like damp on the wall of a moon-lighted tower,  
 And faint is the sword flashing hand that was lifted  
 Star-like, where victory wavering drifted.  
 Earth rolls from beneath, and the vague space before him,  
 More cold than the white Russian winter, comes o'er him.

## VI.

Shrinkingly fades the slow day from the Isle;  
 Thickly the night-lamp is burning the while:  
 O'er the dim tract of the rock-scattered hill  
 Scant tree and herbage lie withered and still.

Death hangs in the numb clouds that skirt the grey lea,  
 And hushed as that chamber's the waste of the sea.  
 Mutters the Chief in his strange fearless trance;  
 His words are of battle, and glory, and France—  
 While the few, statue still, bending o'er his pale form  
 Sudden start into life and cry, "Hark to the storm!"

## VII.

O'er them it rolls—the gaunt mountain top rings,  
 With the hurry of wild multitudinous wings;  
 Comes a deep roar from the surfy-sea stars  
 Like the lost echo of earth's tempest wars;  
 Lo! *They're* aloft in the lightning scarred sky,  
 And Death knows the old ranks that hover on high.  
 Round the wide air the great squadrons are burning,  
 While the Chief in the tempest blaze, haughtily turning,  
 Mutters low; but they catch the last sounds in their birth,  
 "Again am I king of my armies of Earth."

## VIII.

Over the seas through the infinite blind,  
 Storm they along like a dusk desert wind;  
 Round the great spirit they marshall and throng,  
 Chanting through night their imperial song;  
 War tuned and earnest the clash of their words,  
 And their eyes glitter keen as the flashing of swords.  
 Over the lands where they battled and fell  
 Pausing a space—like a solemn death knell—  
 Then past the cloud Alps of the cold midnight fly  
 Away to the warrior realms of the sky.



# SONGS AND POEMS.

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## THE POTATO DIGGER'S SONG.

### I.

COME, Connal, acushla, turn the clay,  
And show the lumpers the light, gosoon,  
For we must toil this autumn day,  
With Heaven's help till rise of the moon.  
Our corn is stacked, our hay secure,  
Thank God! and nothing, my boy, remains,  
But to pile the potatoes safe on the flure,  
Before the coming November rains.  
The peasant's mine is his harvest still;  
So now my lad, let's dig with a will;—  
Work hand and foot,  
Work spade and hand,  
Work spade and hand,  
Through the crumbly mould;  
The blessed fruit  
That grows at the root  
Is the real gold  
Of Ireland!

### II.

Och! I wish that Maurice and Mary dear  
Were singing beside us this soft day!  
Of course they'r far better off than here;  
But whether they'r happier who can say!  
I've heard, when it's morn with us, 'tis night  
With them on the far Australian shore;—  
Well, heaven be about them wid visions bright,  
And send them childer and money gallore.  
With us there's many a mouth to fill,  
And so my boy, let's work with a will:—  
Work hand and foot,  
Work spade and hand,  
Work spade and hand  
Through the brown dry mould;  
The blessed fruit  
That grows at the root  
Is the real gold  
Of Ireland!



## III.

Ah, then, Paddy O'Reardan, you thundering Turk,  
 Is it coorting you are in the blessed noon?  
 Come over here, Katty, and mind your work,  
 Or I'll see if your mother can't change your tune.  
 Well—youth will be youth, as you know, Mike,  
 Sixteen and twenty for each were meant;—  
 But, Pat, in the name of the fairies, avic  
 Defer your proposals till after Lent;  
 And as love in this country lives mostly still  
 On potatoes—dig, boy, dig with a will:—  
     Work hand and foot,  
     Work spade and hand,  
     Work spade and hand  
     Through the harvest mould;  
     The blessed fruit  
     That grows at the root  
     Is the real gold  
     Of Ireland!

## IV.

Down the bridle road the neighbours ride,  
 Through the light ash shade, by the wheat sheaves:  
 And the children sing on the mountain side,  
 In the sweet blue smoke of the burning leaves.  
 As the great Sun sets in glory furled,  
 Faith, it's grand to think as I watch his face—  
 If he never sets on the English World,  
 He never, lad, sets on the Irish Race,  
 In the West, in the South, New Irelands still  
 Grow up in his light;—come, work with a will:—  
     Work hand and foot,  
     Work spade and hand,  
     Work spade and hand  
     Through the native mould;  
     The blessed fruit  
     That grows at the root  
     Is the real gold  
     Of Ireland!

## V.

But look!—the round Moon, yellow as corn,  
 Comes up from the sea in the deep blue calm;  
 It scarcely seems a day since morn;  
 Well—the heel of the evening to you ma'm.  
 God bless the moon; for many a night,  
 As I restless lay on a troubled bed,  
 When rent was due—her quieting light

Has flattered with dreams my poor old head:—  
 But see—the baskets remain to fill—  
 Come, girls, be alive—boys, dig with a will:—  
     Work hand and foot,  
     Work spade and hand,  
     Work spade and hand  
     Through the moonlit mould;  
     The blessed fruit  
     That grows at the root  
     Is the real gold  
     Of Ireland!

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## THE EMIGRANT'S VOYAGE.

### EVENING.

THE white sails are filled, and the wind from the shore  
 Blows sad from the hills we shall visit no more;  
 And the ship slowly moves o'er the ocean at rest,  
 From the land of our hearts, in the light of the West.

Though few are the friends on the land's sinking rim,  
 Yet our eyes, straining into the sunset, grow dim;  
 We are leaving for ever the walks where we strayed,  
 And the graves where the dust of our dearest is laid.

Now twilight has covered the isle in its gloom;  
 Dark the village, and lost the old place of the tomb;  
 And we see but yon dusk mountain line in the light,  
 We have watched from our cottage doors many a night.

Ah, the stars on the ocean are glimmering nigh,  
 Like the eyes of the dead looking up at the sky;  
 And our ship speeds along as heart-wearied we sleep,  
 'Mid the waters of God, and the clouds of the deep.

### MORNING.

Full stretched are the sails, dim and dewy the spars;  
 On the spray-wetted deck falls the light of the stars;  
 And the blue lonely morning breaks coldly, as we,  
 In the wind, cleave the hurrying heaps of the sea.

All alone in the world, without riches below,  
 We have memories that wander wherever we go;  
 And wild sorrow reasons, 'mid tears falling fast,  
 That the present may still draw its light from the past.

Of mornings to come, from our windows we'll bend,  
 And look on the sun—that bright following friend;  
 Still fondly remembering his glory has shone  
 On the land that we love, and the friends who are gone.

Oft, at even, when labour is o'er for a while,  
Will our hearts travel back to our own blessed Isle;  
Across the great sea we have traversed in gloom,  
And hover in prayer by the old lonely tomb.

Yes, spirits beloved, though your home were as far  
From our world-wearied hearts as the loneliest star,  
Our prayers shall arise for ye from the far clime,  
Oh many, and many, and many a time.

We will hear the sweet voice, that on earth sounds no  
more,  
Still murmuring for us from the Heaven's happy shore;  
We will hear those dim footsteps, at grey silent morn,  
That paced our lost home, long before we were born.

Old scenes, where we wandered together, will rise—  
The fair window landscape—the soft, rainy skies;  
The old green-patched hill, where the dewy light plays—  
Where your shadows oft passed, on the old summer days.

Not alone, not alone, will we labour and roam;  
Where your memories linger we still have a home.  
And shall still tread, in fancy, the paths ye have trod  
Until death leads us up to our dear ones and God.

## THE OLD SWORD OF IRELAND.

### I.

In the gloom of the temple, all lonely and lorn,  
Great brand thou hast glimmered through ages of woe—  
With the grasp of our heroes thy hilt has been worn,  
And thy rust is the blood of the heritaged foe.  
Like that talisman hid in the emerald cave,  
Where the Angel of Liberty paused on his way,  
The mightiest heart to direct or to save,  
Shall still find thy fierce treasure and bare it to-day.

### II.

Oft clenched in the grasp of some chieftain of yore,  
Thou hast lighted the old Celtic chivalry on,  
Where the dun Danish barques swarmed the surf of the shore,  
Or the casques of the Saxon men sullenly shone.  
Oft clasped in carouse with the sabres of Spain,  
Thy blade has re-mirrored old Victory's light,  
While afar the tall towers, in the dusk of the plain,  
Flamed to welcome the warriors home through the night.

## III.

The exile has borne thee afar from the Power,  
 He scorned to defend, and was sworn to destroy;  
 The Ally has wreathed with the white lily's flower  
 The shamrock that girt thee on wild Fontenoi.  
 Yet still to the foes of thy country the same,  
 Thy lustre has blazed like a meteor of war,  
 On the edge of the onset, for Louis and fame,  
 In the dusty French fields of battalia afar.

## IV.

Aye, they fondled thy fierceness through fear of thy blow,  
 And blanched when thy blade was unsheathed to the light,  
 Could they dare, would have broken—for well did they know  
 Thee unsympathised, save in the cause of the Right.  
 And long o'er the Past where the ghosts of our dead  
 Immortal in vengeance their terrors unfold,  
 Thou hungst like the weapon that shook by a thread  
 O'er the brow of Sicilia's tyrant of old.

## V.

Yet dim was thy splendour when under the yoke  
 Of the despots of Europe who chartered thee there:  
 Of the cause of the contest all careless, thy stroke  
 Opened victory up through the clouds of despair;  
 But, of late in the West have those glories returned  
 To thy blade, which great liberty only can wreath;  
 Long a slave, for the rights of the slave, thou hast turned,  
 Nor, till Freedom's trump sounded, once slept in a sheathe.

## VI.

Ah, where—till a hope shall dis sever the gloom,  
 Shall we shrine for the future this memoried blade!  
 Where our mightiest man lies at rest in the tomb,  
 'Mid the laurels that cover him, let it be laid.  
 Secure shall it lie o'er the dignified dust,  
 Unseen as the ray of a long-vanished star,  
 Till some morning of battle it flames from its rust,  
 When a land's resurrection is sounded in war.

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 THE IRISH GIRL TO HER DEAD MOTHER.

ALL, all has changed since you are gone—the world is bright  
 no more:  
 Even the blue hills seem darker now, seen from the cottage  
 door;  
 New faces come, new accents fill the ears, and so depart,  
 But the noise of life will never drown one voice that haunts  
 my heart.

Your dear, your well-known garments, preserved with  
gentlest care,  
More faded seem each time I look, 'mid tears that tremble  
there;  
But in this many-remembered breast, beyond the dust's decay,  
Your image lives where time rusts not, nor death can take  
away.

The memory of the happy days when you were on the earth,  
Which make my dearest comfort now—your voice of love  
and mirth,  
Are lost each noon in the noisy life in which I mix with pain;  
But at clear morn and quiet eve, God brings them back again.

Oft, oft the past returns;—our evening walks along the  
stream,  
Until we came unto the turn that takes the sun's last beam;  
When from the green spring hedges came the first bird's  
lonely cry,  
And ploughman's whistle through the mist of furrowed  
fields anigh.

When by the busy bridge we stood, and saw beyond it shiver,  
The marge of sereing rush along the blue drift of the river;  
Heard the weary sound of waggons, and the drover's lazy  
tune,  
And the mellow dreamy crowing of some drowsy cock at  
noon.

Here by the sycamore, oft we heard the soft midsummer  
rain—  
Here, oft of February nights, the faint snow sift the pane—  
Here, when the sickness of the time, came in thick autumn  
noons,  
I watched in awe till evening chimed beneath the clouded  
moons,—

Saw by the gate the ashy poplar shiver tipt with dawn,  
All fever-chill; and worn your cheek, your breathing faintly  
drawn,  
Oft checked my own to list; while chirped the sparrow in the  
straws,  
While on the roof the weathercock creaked with inconstant  
pause.

Now lone, alas, I rest me in the window toward the west,  
Where often, as we sat at eve, in twilight's hour of rest,  
I saw you gaze upon my face, to get my looks by heart,  
And dry a tear, when thinking of the time when we must  
part.

While, fretful fond, I checked you; and we turned our tear-  
ful sight  
Where the windy trees were tossing in the sad slant evening  
light,  
While the shadows of the trailers, and gateway poplars tall  
Fell, wavering o'er the pictures on the goldened fronting  
wall.

It seemed to me oft then, as now, that we lived on a shore  
Which, to the senseless waves of time seemed crumbling more  
and more;

And fear struck as I mused on that inevitable ill,  
Dear Mother, I would crush the thought, and love you dearer  
still.

At length, one midnight desolate, came death's black, cruel  
barque;

It bore you from my life away into the voiceless dark;  
The morn came by all lustrously—it only found me stand,  
With wildered brain and breaking heart, upon the lonely  
strand.

Mother, do you know it? when your corpse beside me lay,  
I took from off your pallid brow a dear lock, mild and grey;  
And one into your clay-cold hand, tear-blinded, then I gave,  
That you might have a lock of mine beside you in the grave.

Then my mind became one memory—the past rose up again;  
Every joy and every sorrow in oblivion that had lain  
Sprung up afresh; but each dear hour a future torment bore,  
Since you, whose smile had hallowed them, were gone for  
evermore.

Now, oft upon a winter's night, when fire-light shadows flit,  
I draw before the hearth the chair wherein you used to sit;  
And tears fall as my heart brings back the loved but voiceless  
tone

Of the sweet old songs you sang for me in the quiet room alone.

I hasten to the window and look out along the sky,  
Toward the grave where all I loved and all I love doth lie;—  
I see a star shine o'er the place—perchance its lonely ray  
Illumed your spirit on the night when you were ta'en away.

When all is bright within the room from old books, fire, and  
lamp,

I think upon that silent tomb, so lonely, chill, and damp;  
I think, half envious of the tree that sighs there faint and  
drear,—

That I should be away from you, and it for ever near!

Yet I love it for being near you; and ever I believe,  
 Since standing there beside you, one disconsolate dark eve,  
 When autumn's winds like memories through its thin  
     branches fled,  
 It seemed to weep its withered leaves above your lonely head.  
 I'm desolate now, for none again can love me like to you;  
 And though I met with some one who would guard me firm  
     and true,  
 I ne'er would share my heart with them, for then I must  
     betray  
 My love for you, whose love for me no love could take away.  
 Then, in my heart I'll live with you, and think upon the time  
 When I shall leave this lonely earth, and hear the heaven's  
     chime;  
 When I shall stray 'mid happy souls in search of you, my  
     Mother,  
 And, by a smile shed down from God, we shall see one  
     another.

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## A VISION OF ERIE.

### I.

LET the pilgrim of Europe roam on as he may,  
 From the snows of the North to the slopes of the vine,  
 What space can unfold in the light of the day  
 More versatile beauties, sweet region, than thine—

### II.

Where the sun that at morn scatters fire on the crest  
 Of the giant-browed Galtees, rounds southward, and takes  
 A golden adieu, ere he sinks to his nest  
 In the arbutus bowers of the legended lakes?

### III.

Here grey castles moulder like dreams of the past,  
 In the sunshine the shadows and dews of the clime;  
 Here round towers, haunted by legends, still last  
 On the evening inland, like dials of Time.

### IV.

Streams freshen the meadows by forests of green,  
 By moss-covered Abbeys, all ruined and bare,  
 Whose lone chancel casements at twilight are seen  
 Like skeleton hands pointed heavenward in prayer;

### V.

Here rise the great hills from the pasturing plains;  
 Here goldens the cornland by village and lea;  
 Here rolls the broad Shannon, enriched with the rains,  
 By the turrets of Limerick, swift to the sea,

## VI.

Ah! once by those waters great argosies cast  
 From their broad vans, at sunset, a heroic gloom;  
 Ah! once by those mouldering battlements past  
 The dusky-browed Spaniard in armour and plume.

## VII.

The pageant is o'er, but the blood which enshades  
 The peasant's rich cheek from that fountain is drawn,  
 And glows in the dewy-dark eyes of her maids,  
 Like the sunned Guadalquivier's first ripple at dawn.

## VIII.

Here feasted the chiefs by the castle's broad fire,  
 And swelled the wild song of the wandering guest,  
 Till the memoried music he struck from his lyre  
 Stirred the sword in the scabbard, the heart in the breast.

## IX.

Here oft, as the battle day gloomed o'er the flood,  
 Their fierce cheers gave note of the enemy's flight,  
 As they marched by the turrets of Desmond's wild wood,  
 With their reddened spears raised in the evening light.

## X.

But, lo! while we muse in the light of thy streams,  
 That sparkle in fresh diamond dances anigh,  
 The souls of thy clime, like a splendour in dreams,  
 Descend in a radiant train from the sky.

## XI.

Floats up from the Shannon a shadowy blast,  
 Where great Brian's Ceanncorahd lies ruined and lone,  
 And a phantom looks down from the clouds of the past,  
 And mournfully sighs o'er the years that are gone;

## XII.

When discord lay dead as his steel-shining hand  
 Waved the terror-struck fleets of the Northmen away;  
 When Peace crowned Victory shone in the land  
 Like a warrior's plume on a midsummer day.

## XIII.

Rude years, but ennobled by patriot toil;  
 Grey years, that still rise o'er the ages at rest,  
 Like turrets that look o'er a fertilized soil,  
 As they moulder in mist on the skirts of the west,

## XIV.

And mark, after long barren ages of gloom,  
 A new light burns broad on eternity's wing;  
 And Grattan strides proudly by Liberty's tomb,  
 With the tongue of a prophet, the brain of a king:



## XV.

Great chieftain of Freedom, proud Erinn's alone,  
 Whose soul, like a thunder-cloud born in the blue,  
 Crowned with glory the shadows of history's throne,  
 While it nurtured the green native isle with its dew.

## XVI.

Who treads by his side o'er the purple-belled heath,  
 With wild scattered hair o'er his forehead so wan?  
 Whence flashes the upturned eye from its sheath,  
 With a glance like the brown-hooded falcon's at dawn?—

## XVII.

Ah! rich native Fancy, thy flame never lit  
 Such splendours as swarmed from our Curran's bright  
 brain—  
 Scintillant as spar to the sparkle of wit,  
 Yet soft as the blossom enriched with the rain.

## XVIII.

And, late, what dear genial shadow appears  
 Like a young autumn crescent 'twixt morning and night?  
 Rise Davis, whose pen in a few happy years  
 Reaped harvests of thought like a sickle of light.

## XIX.

Ah! hadst thou but lived for the hearts of the land  
 That shone with thy spirit, and throbbed with thy lyre,  
 Success would have crowned them, nor Liberty's hand  
 Been scorched at the altar while fostering its fire.

## XX.

Orphan Isle of the Ocean! how bright is thy sway,  
 Though sadly thou sit'st by the western wave,  
 When the song of thy Moore charms the world on its way,  
 When the brain of thy Burke rules the age from his grave!

## XXI.

Ah! when shall thy Genius arise with the power  
 To guide thy old storms o'er a fertilized mould,  
 Pile them high o'er the west in tranquillity's hour,  
 And magic their gloom to a glory of gold?

## XXII.

Despair not—though shadowed by destiny long,  
 Great spirits shall guard thee like planets of flame;  
 And armoured by Heaven, prolific and strong,  
 With the youth of eternity toil for thy fame.

## XXIII.

Yes, nurtured to life by the sun of thy clime,  
 New heroes shall pace where thy Glories have trod;  
 And Voices, yet hushed in the silence of Time,  
 Roll up with thine own living echoes to God.

## SWIFT.

## I.

Two women loved him, shapes of Heaven,  
 Radiant as aught beneath the sky.  
     One gentle as the summer moon,  
     One ardent as the golden noon;  
 And to the first his heart was given,  
 And to the last his vanity.

## II.

Equal in love, alike in doom —  
     Content to yield in proud desire  
     Their souls for shelter in that breast,  
     Palsied with passion long unrest,  
     Content to worship and expire  
 Silent within its upas gloom.

## III.

Yes, gentle hearts, thy legend's old—  
     Old thy ambitioned instinct, too.  
     As turns the blossom to the light,  
     Beauty's attraction bends to might,  
 Though shrined within a brain as cold  
 As yon great snow star in the blue.

## IV.

Long years they loved, unknown, apart;  
     In patient fond expectancy  
     Of consummated hope. At last  
     The shadow of each presence passed  
 Across the pathway to his heart,  
 And love grew dark with jealousy.

## V.

Sweet Stella, anguished was the hour—  
     Ah, piteous hour of proud despair,  
     When trembled in thy little hand  
     Thy restless rival's dread demand,  
 Upon that breast whose earliest flower  
 Sprung in thy smile, and blossomed there.

## VI.

And poor Vanessa—sadder still  
     Thy weary worship at the shrine  
     Where bent thy brow, where turned thy gaze,  
     Dazzled to darkness in the blaze,  
 And mastered by a sovereign will,  
 Strong as the sun's sway o'er the brine.

## VII.

Forsaken souls ! you found at last  
 The barren wreath for which you vied.

Each, like the Greek girl, sought to draw  
 Love from a breathless statua,  
 Whose cold, eternal beauty cast  
 The shadow in whose gloom you died.

## VIII.

For what to him were loves of earth,  
 That light the humblest soul below ?  
 His planet flamed in wider skies,  
 And moved for mightier destinies  
 Than circle round a homely hearth,  
 Or centre in its narrow glow.

## IX.

What! should the spirit which had soared  
 Ambition's eyrie as a King,  
 And wielded with a giant's power  
 The mighty movers of the hour,  
 Be cozened by some passion-bird,  
 And twitted with a feeble wing ?

## X.

A truce with mockeries—the weak  
 Are greatest tyrants when they dare.  
 Too long, too long had he forborne  
 To check, in mere reserve of scorn,  
 This puppet play of changing cheek—  
 This fulsome puling of despair.

## XI.

It was a dim October day,  
 When clouds hung low on roof and spire,  
 He dashed his horse, to gallop pressed,  
 Along the old road leading west,  
 Where Liffey's waters shimmering lay  
 Beneath the noonlight's struggling fire.

## XII.

Aleft, the slopes of tillage spread;  
 And further, higher to the south,  
 The sloping slate-grey mountains rose,  
 Sun-pencill'd in the noon's repose,  
 And by his path the river bed,  
 Deep sanded with the summer drought.

## XIII.

The city sunk in smoke behind,  
 Before, the air rose blue and lone.  
 At times, from ivied hedge and wall,  
 Faint shrilled the robin's crystal call;  
 And, from the west, the careless wind  
 Was blowing in a monotone.

## XIV.

He marked not, as he swept along,  
 The golden woodland's glimmering domes;  
 He heard not as he trampled by,  
 The foliage whispering to the sky,  
 The laugh of children, or the song  
 Of mothers in their rustic homes.

## XV.

Unheeded all to eye and ear,  
 The world's old genial beauty past;  
 Nor reck'd he in that hour of wrath,  
 Aught save the victim in his path,  
 Though pity, justice hovered near—  
 Though God was watching from the vast.

## XVI.

At length, beneath its woody gloom,  
 Old Marley's cloister ends his way.  
 He lights—he knocks. The pigeon's plaint  
 Swoons fitfully above and faint;  
 And glimmers through the garden's bloom  
 The river's sheet of glassy grey.

## XVII.

Lo! from her memoried laurel bower,  
 Where oft she sat alone, to hear  
 His coming, she is hastening now,  
 To meet him with a joyous brow,  
 Though saddened by th' impending hour,  
 And shuddering with an unknown fear.

## XVIII.

She enters—springs to meet him. God!  
 Can passion demonize a brow  
 Of spirit-splendour! In a breath  
 The letter's thrown; and he, like death,  
 Is gone, Hark! Ringing from the road  
 His horse's trampling echoes now.

## XIX.

In terror'd trance she burst the seal.  
 Ah, piteous aspect—shape forlorn!  
 Doom darkness o'er her, and she falls—  
 Dead as the shadow on the walls—  
 Dead, holding in her heart the steel—  
 Brain-blasted by his silent scorn.

## XX.

Ah, well! a purer, tenderer light  
 Still smiles upon his barren years.  
 Like a sweet planet glimmering o'er  
 Some silent waste of vanished war,

Sweet Stella charms life's falling night  
With eyes whose love outlives their tears.

## XXI.

Yes; thou art true, though love has wreathed  
Thy brow with cypress. Though the pall  
Encircles life, thy voice, no less,  
Is toned to soothe his loneliness,  
Like melancholy music breathed  
Through some funereal banquet hall.

## XXII.

Star of fidelity! Thy light  
Soon set beneath the eternal wave,  
And from thy place of cold repose,  
Retributive remorse arose—  
The fury of the deepening night,  
And heaven darkened o'er thy grave.

## XXIII.

As twilight's leaden shadows fall,  
He sits within the casement lone.  
Bright letters from bright comrades lie  
Unheeded round him; and anigh  
One empty chair beside the wall:—  
The world has vanished—she is gone.

## XXIV.

He muses—not in scorn or mirth,  
And fondly clasps one raven tress;  
Still flames the spirit vision through  
Those deep-browed eyes of angry blue,  
Too mighty for the mean of earth—  
Too critic clear for happiness.

## XXV.

Now hums the past its ceaseless song,  
And through the chambers of his brain  
The tender light of parted days,  
Bright cordial smiles—old winning ways,  
Remembered tones unheeded long,  
Rise from the silent years again.

## XXVI.

Till, slowly deepens o'er his face  
A mournful light, rare and divine,  
Like Death's last smile; as silently,  
And with a sad simplicity,  
His aged hand essays to trace  
That relic with one trembling line.

## XXVII.

"Only a woman's hair!" No more.  
The golden dreams of pride are gone;

And nought remains save this poor prize,  
 Instinct with anguished memories;  
 Life's tree is leafless now, and roar  
 The bleak winds through its skeleton.

## XXVIII.

The dusk cathedral glooms the while—  
 The bell tolls in the upper air;  
 And silvering down the mouldered walls,  
 The winter moonlight coldly falls  
 Through one old window in the aisle,  
 On one memorial tablet there.

## XXIX.

Ah, what were fame's great trumpet breath,  
 The proud applause of mightiest men,  
 The storm, the struggle, and the crown,  
 The world, that darkened in his frown—  
 The love that he had scorned to death,  
 Were dearer than an empire then.

## XXX.

Oh, wisdom, manhood, where were ye;  
 Thus in caprice of power to move—  
 To play with hearts whose truth you tried  
 To watch, poor puppet of your pride,  
 How long sweet, earnest constancy  
 Would live with unrequited love.

## XXXI.

Vain requiem o'er a ruined life—  
 Vain sorrow for the vanished bloom  
 Of love's sweet blossom. Still with eyes  
 Turned to its God, affection dies  
 With curses cankering from the strife  
 Ambition epitaphs its tomb.

## XXXII.

Alone, long, dreary years alone,  
 His days went down the darkened sky,  
 Racked with the heart's revenging war:  
 A Saturn on his icy star,  
 God-like upon a ruined throne,  
 Friendless in his supremacy.

## XXXIII.

Till, last, by that grey brow there came  
 Some angel pitying his distress;  
 And tamed the soul that burned within,  
 Sin-like revenging upon sin,  
 And quenched that hell of clearest flame,  
 In ashes of forgetfulness.

## XXXIV.

His spirit lives within his page:  
 Dissective subtlety of glance;  
 Keen Truth, to make the merriest mourn,  
 Fierce wit, that brightens but to burn,  
 Are there; and cold, ironic rage,  
 Withering a world it views askance.

## XXXV.

What, though amid our warrior band,  
 An alien patriot he be,  
 Whose combat clang for Ireland's right,  
 In reason half, if half in spite,  
 Still shall we hang his mighty brand  
 In Freedom's sombre armoury.

## XXXVI.

And when we pace along the shrine  
 That coldly closed on his despair,  
 View, from his angered life apart,  
 The passioned tremble of the heart  
 That ripples in the little line—  
 "Only a woman's hair."

## GRATTAN.

WHOSE the white locks wildly scattered  
 O'er that forehead veined and broad,  
 Like the flakes of marble shattered  
 From the brow of sculptured god?  
 Whose the firm lip of decision  
 That now shone with thoughts elysian,  
 Or flamed with fierce derision,  
 As to dust his foe he trod;  
 And the eye, clear and intrepid,  
 Whose immortal glance was dreaded  
 More than if that frame decrepid  
 With a giant's blood had fed it?  
 It is Liberty's High Priest,  
 It is Ireland's first and best—  
 Who from halls of degradation  
 Spurred a shadowed people onward,  
 And to glory lead a Nation,  
 Pointing ever, ever sunward.

Though his the heart as sweet and pure  
 As summer rivulet demure,  
 That in the sun of Fancy plays  
 In peaceful pleasance 'mid its rays—  
 His, too, the brain with Reason bright,  
 A diamond gem of solid light—

Th' Imagination's earthquake power  
 That moulds a people in an hour,  
 And sways their spirits in control;—  
 The tongue instinct with fire intense,  
 Flashing electric eloquence—  
 As some great tempest treads the night,  
 'Mid mighty hail and thunder-light,  
 Annihilating in its might—  
 Of Heaven-winged lightning ires  
 Of fierce thought-executing fires—  
 Tyrannic rule o'er Land and Soul:  
 But leaving—its strong spell withdrawn—  
 A clear-aired world, beneath a dawn.

When, after ages of deep night,  
 This patriot spirit, armed with Right,  
 In the dark Temple of the Land  
 Stood strong beside its northern shrine,  
 O'er-heaped with many a bloody chain,  
 A light broke o'er his sworded hand:—  
 Our banner loosened to the breeze;  
 And from the silent centuries  
 A thunder peal burst o'er the main—  
 Proclaiming, "Destined for the free—  
 Has Deity exalted thee,  
 Green Island o'er the Western Sea;  
 And dowered with might to use thy right  
 If but thou worshippest the Light,  
 Henceforward thou shalt be:  
 Awaken! Spirit and Time conform—arise!  
 Thy resurrection trumpet through the skies  
 Sounds from the Throne of Destiny!"

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## SQUIBS FROM THE CRIMEAN WAR.

No. I

I.

At length the great storm which the prophet forecast,  
 From his lone ocean rock, is around us unfurled;  
 The mandate is given—the lightnings flame fast  
 From the long gather'd clouds on the brow of the world!  
 Oh, who may declare how the Nations shall rise,  
 When peace re-appears o'er the tempest of doom?  
 Vague forms of the future are shaped in the skies,  
 Where the Cossack and Christian contend in the gloom:  
 Rise, Demons of Force—weep, Angels of Light—  
 Our crescent star rolls for a space into night.



## II.

Far off, 'mid the wastes of his many-zoned land,  
 The Despot, enthroned o'er the pomp of the War,  
 Grasps Glory's dread trump with a warrior's hand,  
 And clarions a prayer unto Victory's star.  
 Through the white stately streets of the city, this hour,  
 Swells the mustering host's multitudinous hum,  
 And the great bells are tolling from temple and tower,  
 'Mid the trumpet's drear blast, and the throb of the drum.  
 Rise, Demons of Force—weep, Angels of Light—  
 The Scythian is gathering the Armies of Night.

## III.

Lo! southward, where oft they have traversed of yore,  
 Through the Mediterranean's azure expanse,  
 By the ruins of Greece—by the swart Afric shore,  
 Speeds on to the war the bright phalanx of France.  
 Blow, favouring winds, on the warrior's path—  
 Rise, memories of Moscow, through bosom and brain;  
 Now the deep passion'd Fury, retributive wrath,  
 Gives a flame to your chivalry once, once again:  
 Speed, Spirits as bright as the sun and as warm,  
 But fierce in your strength as the white Russian storm.

## IV.

Lo! England, aroused from her torpor at last  
 By the slow Scythian terror, moves mightily forth:  
 Like the full feathered eagles aslant on the blast,  
 Her thunder brimm'd Fleets surge along to the North.  
 Oh, what may arise when from Cronstadt's grey steep  
 The iron-tongued destinies roar through the fire—  
 The sea pride of Britain a wreck on the deep?  
 The snow city's towers a funereal pyre?  
 Speed on—o'er the bleak wintry skies of the town  
 The vengeance-browed God of Siberia looks down.

## V.

Yes, the tempest's a-wing—over ocean and glade,  
 The Hosts hurry on to the plains of the War,  
 Where throbs the low pulse of the quick cannonade,  
 From the thundering heart of the battle afar.  
 While the Slave strains his gaze to the Eastern space,  
 As the shadow and storm of the time are unfurled,  
 For that glory of freedom long sought by his Race  
 In the new dawn of destiny folding the world;  
 Where, elected by nations, the Sovereign *Right*  
 May dictate a new code from his palace of light.

## No. II.—BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

*Written in the Winter of 1855.*

## I.

LEADEN low broods the sky round the Crimean shore,  
 Wild and red sets the sun through the drear water's roar:  
 Over tent-scatter'd mountain and rock-scatter'd coast,  
 Its sullen glare strikes on a perishing host.  
 Beneath them, the fierce bastions flame, and behind,  
 Shrill and chill, from the North comes the death-breathing  
 wind.

Ah, desolate vision! Soon, soon shall the grave  
 Close over the last weary wreck of the Brave.  
 Promised Victory pales in the plague-thickened air,  
 And Glory fades off from the Golgotha there.  
 Cease, cannon of Russia, to roar for your prey—  
 The armies of England are wasting away.

## II.

What doom is upon them? A year has scarce died  
 Since they circled the Throne in the plumes of their pride.  
 Morn smiled on their parting—each Southern steep  
 Flashed its snowy farewell o'er the blue of the deep,  
 As breasting the blast toward the orient sun,  
 Her mighty armada surged buoyantly on.  
 But, alas for the manhood it bore to their grave,  
 And alas for the glory they sought o'er the wave.  
 Now the wind of the steppe sounds their only acclaim—  
 Now the hospital's lair is their Temple of Fame.  
 Cease, cannon of Russia, to roar for your prey—  
 The silent destroyer has swept them away.

## III.

Lo! bleak night has shrouded the world, from the verge  
 Of the snow-whitened hills to the skirt of the surge.  
 The trenches are hushed—through the veil of the haze  
 Flickers faint and unfrequent the bivouac's blaze;  
 Or the pale lamp of the o'er-wearied warriors hold,  
 As they scantily cover some corse in the mould.  
 Hark! a sound from yon gloomy tent stirs on the air.  
 'Tis no accent of terror—no moan of despair;  
 But the voice of a lost lonely heart—for anigh,  
 A poor Irish soldier has lain him to die.

Cease, cease Russian cannon, to roar for your prey—  
 A silent destroyer will bear them away.

## IV.

The thick mist of fever is hot on his eyes,  
 As he turns his last look toward the Eastern skies.  
 The Moon slowly rounds through the space of the night,  
 And he thinks of one cottage that lies in its light—

Far away, far away on the lost native shore,  
 Whose fields and whose friends he shall never see more.  
 He sees, by the glow of its hearth, growing dim,  
 That memoried group who are thinking of him.  
 Then, as the death-pulse beats faintly and wild,  
 He breathes a last prayer for wife, mother, and child.  
 Cease, cease Russian cannon, to roar for your prey—  
 Frost, fever and famine will bear them away.

## V.

Far away, by the storms of the desert o'erblown,  
 They perish—out-numbered, deserted, alone.  
 Never more shall the soft, blessed balm of the air  
 They have breathed by their mother's side circle them there.  
 Never more shall the yellow thatched cottage behold  
 Their return to its roof, as in evenings of old.  
 Never more, never more shall they rest by its hearth,  
 'Mid the true tender smiles of the dearest of earth.  
 For the terrors of winter in pestilence rolled,  
 Swoops down on Britannia's shepherdless fold:—  
 Cease, cannon of Russia, to roar for your prey--  
 The armies of England are wasting away.

## NO. III.—AN IRISH MOTHER'S DREAM.

## I.

ONE night, as the wind of the winter blew loud,  
 And snow swathed the earth, like a corse in its shroud,  
 An aged Mother mused in her dim cottage shed,  
 O'er the young soldier-son of her heart far away,  
 Where the cannon flames red o'er the low dying dead,  
 And the desolate Camp bleakly spreads in the day.  
 And near stood her Daughter, with sad strained smile,  
 And kind cheek of care, that long weeping had worn,  
 As she whispered, "Now sleep, dearest Mother, awhile—  
 God is good, and our Dermot will surely return."

## II.

The poor Mother turned on her pillow, and there  
 Soon slept the kind sleep Heaven sheds on our care.  
 Silence filled the dusk chamber—the low ashy hearth  
 Sunk lower, and noiselessly sifted the snow  
 O'er the white, spacious girth of the cold, solemn earth,  
 Where the muffled moon fitfully glimmer'd below;  
 But vanished the while are her visions of fear,  
 And passed, for a space, is her sorrow and pain;  
 For an angel has wafted her soul from its sphere,  
 And in dreams she beholds her own Dermot again.

## III.

Dear joy, how she loves him! A long year has passed  
 Since she kissed his pale forehead, and hung on his breast;  
 She looks in his face—'tis the same, still the same—  
 Still soft are those eyes as the dew on the sod:  
 No thirst for the game of wild battle or fame  
 Have lessened their love for her, thanks be to God!  
 But away! they are speeding o'er mountain and moor—  
 O'er city, and forest—o'er tempest and tide;  
 But little she heeds of their terrors, be sure,  
 While that son of her bosom seems still at her side.

## IV.

Lo! at length they have passed the wild ocean, and stand  
 On a summit that looks o'er desolate land;  
 Far off, the great fortresses loom o'er the spray,  
 Anear, the bleak tents drift the slopes of the ground;  
 And a sense of decay fills the solitude gray,  
 For an army in ruins is scattered around.  
 "And is it for this," said the poor dreaming soul,  
 "My Dermot has wandered from home's blessed air?—  
 Here Death fills the wind blowing keen from the Pole—  
 Here the Pestilence strikes what the cannon may spare."

## V.

They passed through the streets of the tents lying still—  
 They passed by the trenches that ridge the brown hill—  
 They saw the pale faces that famine has worn;  
 They pace where the wounded lie lonely and lost—  
 Where the corse, cannon-torn, to its red bed was borne—  
 Where the poor frozen sentinel died on his post.  
 "Ah, why, my Dermot, why did you cross the wide foam,  
 To fortune, my child, in this land of the dead?  
 Sure we'd plenty at home—there was better to come:  
 Why, for this, did you leave me, acushla?" she said.

## VI.

"I thought as you grew fond and brave by my side,  
 No sorrow could cloud us—no fate could divide;  
 I fancied the day when our home would grow bright,  
 With the smile of some *coleen* I'd cherish for thee—  
 When I'd sing through the night by the hearth's ruddy  
 light,  
 With your boy, my own Dermot, asleep on my knee;  
 And when, circled round by a few happy friends,  
 Old age drooped my head, after many a year,  
 As I passed to my God, through the death that He sends,  
 The kind Father would bless me, and you would be  
 near."

## VII.

Still close in the gloom seems he standing by her;  
 But hark ! 'tis the drum, and the camp is astir;  
 And a sound fills the air, from the hill to the star,  
 Like an earthquake, along the wild bastion it runs,  
 While echoes afar roar the voice of the War,  
 As it doubles its thunder from thousands of guns,  
 And she wakes. In the gleam of the pale morning air  
 One gives her a letter—soon, soon is it read;  
 But a low piteous moan only speaks her despair—  
 “Ah, Mother of God ! my own Dermot is dead !”

## THE HOSTS OF NIGHT.

*Hungarian War, 1848.*

## I.

Down the sombrous northern mountains wind the despot's  
 armies slowly;  
 Onward on the tracts beneath, the horsemen darkly troop  
 along;  
 Through the dizzy air the sun is blazing on that host unholy,  
 Marching on a path accursed, championing the cause of  
 wrong:  
 ONE amid the Stars will doom them,  
 And the deserts will entomb them,  
 And the earth will chaunt their fate in Freedom's everlasting  
 song.

## II.

Round them glows the sultry desert, burning winds the sands  
 uprolling;  
 Torture-faint with heat and thirst, the armed ranks falter  
 and expire.  
 They have met no foe, and yet across the world their doom  
 is tolling;  
 They are breathing in the wrath of God amid that waste of  
 fire;  
 Moving blindly o'er the burning  
 Path o'er which there's no returning,  
 Banded by a tyrant's will, but withered by a godly ire.

## III.

Vanished now your martial might, your centuried fame at last  
 is fading;—  
 Squadrons dark of stately spearmen, ringing ranks of  
 musketeers—  
 Deadlier now yon silent Sun than thousand bastions can-  
 nonading,  
 And one hour of Heaven's displeasure deadlier than the  
 wars of years:

By the iron ranks of thunder  
 Horse and horsemen topple under,  
 And the sand-storm sweeps resistless as the rushing of  
 the spheres.

## IV.

Few and faint they struggle onward, armless, hopeless, slowly  
 wander;

Where, ye armies, now the prize imperial you were launched  
 to gain?

Where your song of triumph?—Silent as the perished ranks  
 that yonder

Track the waste like wrecks that mark the vengeance of  
 the mighty main:

Lo! from his sovereign throne on high,

Blood red, down the western sky,

Silent sinks the avenging Sun, flushed with his fiery Victory.

## THE OLD MINSTREL'S FIRESIDE.

## I.

HERE by my hearth amid the fading light

I muse upon the memoried days gone by:

The day is sinking and the rainy night

Looms wild and dismal in the eastern sky.

Though joy be fled, yet hope illumines my way,

Like this poor flame that shines when daylight's past;—

Glow, friendly fire! content will life decay,

If sinking peacefully like thine at last.

## II.

Oft in yon Castle's chambers I have sung—

'Till streamed upon the revel morning's star—

While hundred voices round applause rung—

Of the delights of tournament and war;

But as Time sets, even glory's gold grows grey,

And kindlier crickets' song than trumpet blast:—

Glow, friendly fire! content will life decay,

If sinking peacefully like thine at last.

## III.

Here, oft retreated from the worldly strife,

I've sped the thought-winged hours from night to morn,

Mused o'er the motley paradox of life,

And borne its toils and cares with cheerful scorn;

Within thy light, through many a sunless day,

My ear recalled the voice of dear ones past;—

Glow, friendly fire! content will life decay,

If sinking peacefully like thine at last.

## IV.

Oft, when the night of windy autumn falls,  
 With some old minstrel friend whom fate has given,  
 I pace by lonely roads and vine-clad walls,  
 And muse o'er olden songs, the dead, and heaven;  
 Thy cheerful light illumines our homeward way,  
 While clouds and leaves are hurrying on the blast;—  
 Glow, friendly fire! content will life decay,  
 If sinking peacefully like thine at last.

## V.

Oh, where is happiness except in calm,  
 Or who has found it 'mid the mountain snows.  
 Life's rosiest joys soon perish in their balm,  
 And all its envied crowns are golden woes;  
 Year follows year, and soon this shape of clay  
 Shall yield its trembling tenant to the blast;—  
 Glow, friendly fire! content will life decay,  
 If sinking peacefully like thine at last.

## VI.

As toward my rest with careless foot and slow,  
 While old songs hover round me, through the gloom,  
 I pace, content if winter's earliest snow  
 Enwreath its quiet garland on my tomb,  
 My scrolls and lyre shall form with thy dear ray  
 A hearth-side trinity, while time shall last:—  
 Smile, friendly fire! content will life decay,  
 If sinking peacefully like thine at last.

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 THE POOR POET TO HIS VERSES.

## A WINTER SONG.

## I.

COME to my fireside. Sing to me to-night,  
 Poor Verses, echoes of my vanished years;  
 Though all unknown to fame and fortune's light,  
 My heart still guards you with its smiles and tears.  
 Old memories, though in jarring music sung,  
 And rough to other ears, still sweet to mine,  
 Your voice recalls the days when I was young,  
 And morning makes the dullest things divine.  
 Sing, Verses, sing! the night is dark and cold;  
 Sing, though your voices gain but little gold.

## II.

Rise, Scenes of Banquet, flashing far and wide,  
 Your chambers silvered from the fountain's rain!  
 Pace proudly forward, Prince and beaming bride,  
 And let the Minstrels sound their richest strain!—

Alas! that feast so fragrant and so fine,  
 Was coloured, as a contrast to the night,  
 When, in my palace, water was the wine  
 And winter's solemn moon, my only light.  
 Sing by my fireside, as in days of old,  
 Poor Singing Children gain but little gold.

## III.

Come, Faery fancies, breathing of the moon,  
 Dance, little Elves, through your enchanted bowers!  
 In some dim garret rose the airy tune  
 That timed your tiny footsteps o'er the flowers.  
 Soar, daring Songs of Liberty, and Right,  
 Let tyrants tremble!—but, awhile be still,  
 For in the landlady's sour face to-night  
 The rent seemed scrawled as blank as in her bill:  
 Sing by my ear—but be not loud or bold—  
 Poor Singing Children gain but little gold.

## IV.

Rise, Strains of Passion, from the twilight land,  
 Where Lovers pace along the glimmering stream,  
 And whisper low, and press the parting hand,  
 And homeward wander in a happy dream.  
 Ah, where is she who woke my earliest lay,  
 Whose fearless faith was mine for woe or weal?  
 Along the noisy streets but yesterday  
 Her carriage splashed me o'er from head to heel:  
 Sing, Verses, by my hearth—*that* tale is old,  
 Poor Singing Children gain but little gold.

## V.

Dear lonely offspring of a lonely heart,  
 No rich saloon resounds with your acclaim;  
 No eager student wafts you from the mart,  
 Or critic stings you with an epigram:  
 Beside me rest concealed from stranger minds,  
 Content if some old comrade, loved and known,  
 Lists to your lays by evening light, and finds  
 Within your soul some tremblings of his own.  
 Sing, Little Ones, and round me closer fold,  
 Such Singing Children gain but little gold.

## VI.

Yes, we have wandered heart by heart unseen,  
 Round foreign shores, and through the ocean's blast,  
 Far from the memoried Isle whose fields of green  
 Sleep in the spectral stillness of the past:



Oft, oft, when far away I've looked through tears  
 Into the dying light that o'er them shone;  
 Where all I loved amid the happier years,  
 Where all save you who sing of them are gone.  
 Sing, Memories, sing—the heart that can behold  
 Heaven in the sunset, little heeds its gold.

## SONG OF ALL HALLOW'S EVE.

### I.

THE year is growing aged and dull;  
 Late rise the days, and weary soon;  
 With morning fog the fields are full,  
 And fall the leaves with evening's moon.  
 Shut to the doors, and gather nigh'r,  
 Our summer time is scarcely past;  
 Beside the fire, with cup and lyre,  
 We'll soon outsing the winter's blast.  
 Hour upon hour,  
 Over our bower,  
 Shining and swift, departs, departs;  
 Time to-night  
 Will quicken his flight,  
 To follow awhile our bounding hearts.

### II.

Lo! Autumn passed, with face of care,  
 This eve along the dusky road,  
 Nut clusters tinkled in his hair,  
 And rosy apples formed his load.  
 All friendless, by the withered thorn  
 The kind brown spirit lingered long.  
 Log heap the fire, sing higher, higher,  
 And cheer his ghost with light and song.  
 Hour upon hour,  
 Over our bower,  
 Mellow and mild departs, departs;  
 Time to-night  
 Must quicken his flight  
 To follow awhile our bounding hearts.

### III.

Send round the wine of summer earth,  
 And speed the winter's twilight game;  
 Bend, maidens, round the glowing hearth,  
 And guess at lovers by its flame;  
 Soon Love shall ring from yonder spire  
 The joy each fairy nut foretells;  
 Love strike the lyre, love guard the fire,  
 And tune our lives like marriage bells.

Hour upon hour,  
 Over our bower,  
 Shining and swift departs, departs;  
 Time to-night  
 Has quickened his flight  
 To follow awhile our bounding hearts.

## IV.

Smile, silvered Age, upon the band  
 Of joyous children grouped below—  
 Bright travellers from the morning land  
 Where we have wandered years ago.  
 The dawning heart to heaven is nigher  
 Than wisdom's snowiest brow can soar.  
 Sing to the lyre, circle the fire,  
 And mingle with your youth once more!  
 Hour upon hour,  
 Over our bower,  
 Shining and swift departs, departs;  
 Time to-night  
 Has quickened his flight  
 To follow awhile our bounding hearts.

## V.

Far off the monarchs march to war  
 Amid the trumpet's storming tones,  
 And frowning worship Victory's star  
 Upon their sword-illumined thrones.  
 The noise of chain and cannon dire  
 Rolls bleakly through the barren hours.  
 Sing to the lyre, close round the fire,  
 Our only chains are chains of flowers.  
 Hour upon hour,  
 Over our bower,  
 Shining and soft departs, departs;  
 Time, though a king,  
 Has quickened his wing  
 This night to follow our bounding hearts.

## VI.

Loud on the roof the tempest moans,  
 And mirth would last as loud and long,  
 But yonder bell, in trembling tones,  
 Has blended with our ceasing song.  
 The children drowse, the girls retire  
 To dream of love and fortune's smile.  
 Farewell, old lyre and friendly fire,  
 And happy souls, farewell awhile.

Hour after hour,  
 Over our bower,  
 Mellow and mild, departs, departs.  
 Now Time will sing  
 Beneath his wing  
 A soothing song to our dreaming hearts.

### SONG OF SPRING.

BY METRODORUS O'MAHONY.

Now ancient owld Hyems departing  
 Permits rosy Spring to draw near;  
 Now Favonius wafts through the azure  
 The clouds beyond sunny Cape Clear;  
 And Love over breen and cottage,  
 Has spread his bright pinions, by dad,  
 So that colleens and puers are courting  
 From Galway to Ballinafad.

Come, Cloe, beloved of my heart-strings,  
 And seat yourself close to my left;  
 Spes vivat in mœstum—no matter  
 Of what other joys we're bereft;  
 For what though the pig isn't purchased,  
 And potato seed's riz, as I hear,  
 Is that any reason, in logic,  
 Why we shouldn't marry my dear?

Nabocklish: when beautiful Flora  
 Produces her blossoms anew,  
 And the wide awake goddess Aurora  
 Palavers the mountains with dew;—  
 When the Heathen mythology, Cloe,  
 Drops down from the regions above,  
 Half an eye must be blind in concluding  
 If 'tisn't the season for Love.

Just look at the fowls and the ganders,  
 Just look at the birds on the spray;  
 Why, Mars couldn't utter his feelings  
 In a manner much stronger than they!  
 All nature adjacent is courting  
 And whispering and winking, you rogue,  
 From the midge in the atmosphere sporting,  
 To the ditch that contains the kerogue.

In the paddock the owld ass is sighing,  
 Poor sowl!—and the sheep who reside  
 In the presence of great Lugnaquilla\*  
 Are thinking of nothing beside;

\* A mountain in the county of Wicklow.

Amor vincit all things in creation,  
 As the least classic knowledge may see,  
 So come, dear, and learn education,  
 Cloe Bawn asthore Cushlamacree.

## SONG.

## I.

ONE cold winter even a wanderer came,  
 From a far foreign land in the western brine,  
 Where labouring manhood had wasted its flame—  
 In preparing a rest for the days of decline.  
 And, as o'er the meadows long lost to his sight,  
 He listlessly wandered, like sorrowful Ruth,  
 Two phantoms approached him—one sombre, one bright—  
 Old Time, and the radiant shade of his youth :—  
 Ah! happy is he who in memory's smile,  
 Can pace to his grave in his own blessed Isle.

## II.

They passed through the town, where the old house stood  
 lone,  
 Still hallowed by memories of friends and of kin,  
 But, where revelled this even the stranger unknown—  
 There were lights in the windows and laughter within.  
 In yonder old chamber, how often of yore,  
 Had the hours floated bright in the fond smile of home ;  
 And there, too, alas ! from its dumb darkened door,  
 Had his dear ones been borne, hearsed in death, to the tomb—  
 Yet happy, ah! happy is he who awhile,  
 Can revisit the Past in his own native Isle.

## III.

The bright Spirit stopped by a window that rayed  
 Toward the garden, and said with a tear and a smile ;—  
 “As a child by yon green ivied wall you have played,  
 As a school boy, oft studied uneasily there  
 In fear of the morrow ; and here is the spot  
 Where you plighted your troth to your first love, I wis,  
 While the roses bloomed round, and ‘Ha, ha, you are caught!’  
 Cried the grandam, aroused from her doze by a kiss.”  
 Yes, happy is he, who in memory's smile,  
 Can revisit the scenes of his green native Isle.

## IV.

Many more scenes arose as the lone Exile stood  
 With his two Phantom friends 'mid the dreams of the past—  
 The sad day he left them to traverse the flood,  
 With heart bowed by grief, as by tempest the mast—

For the great Land of Emigrants in the gold West ;  
 And he said, as the Spirits, one bright and one dark,  
 Smiled upon him:—" Yes, here shall I sink to my rest,—  
 Here at length shall I anchor life's storm wearied barque."  
 Thrice happy to rest 'mid the sweet sunset's smile,  
 In some haven of peace, in my own blessed Isle.

## V.

" Yes, here shall I live out my lingering days,  
 With thee for my guest, radiant spirit, alone ;—  
 In the window will muse, 'mid the evening rays,  
 On the friends who have loved us, the days that are gone.  
 Calling back the dear hours that in sunset's faint light,  
 Shall return to our hearts from the morning's sweet shore,  
 Until thou, aged Phantom, some calm autumn night  
 With a shadowy comrade shalt knock at my door."  
 Ah ! thrice happy he who in memory's smile,  
 Can thus pace to his rest, in his dear native Isle.

## ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT IN OLD TIMES.

Scene: A Cabin in the mountains—a Still in one corner:  
 several Men seated round a table, by a window, through  
 which is seen a moonlit ravine.

Pat (*loquitur*):

9 o'clock.

" My name, as you know, is Pat,  
 And here with the shamrock still in my hat—  
 Let any one dare to sunder it—  
 I sit at the table,  
 Challenging any man round,  
 Hale, hearty, and sound,  
 Fierce, and able,  
 To drink me under it."

12 o'clock.

Well, twelve o'clock has chimed,  
 And twenty glasses have gone  
 Down the red lane;  
 Yet here, friend Shane,  
 We sit ashore,  
 Clear as bells,  
 And cool as wells,  
 And ready for twenty more!

But! who's that leaving the bohaun?  
 What! are the cowards gone?—  
 And have they left us, Shane,  
 Both masters of the plain!

Though we've poteen before us plenty  
 Still for twenty or twice twenty,  
 Yet are we nothing daunted;  
 For myself, I feel enchanted,  
 All devoid of care and trouble:—  
 Though my body feels a tun,  
 Yet my head is like a bubble,  
 Dancing in the morning sun!

## 2 A.M.

Two in the morning—eh?  
 Well, sure we're steady still,  
 Although the walls are turning,  
 And double lights are burning,  
 To the sight a little troubled,  
 And—ha, ha! even my glass seems  
 do—do—doubled—

And hark! on the moonlit hill,  
 To the Faeries how they're churning,  
 And drinking hand to fist,  
 And dancing all in a mist;  
 And some one must be dying,  
 For there's the bainshee crying,

In its dark, dismal way,—  
 And if I am not mistaken,  
 You, Shane, ma boughal, seem shaken—  
 No!—then, I dare you still  
 Another glass to fill,  
 My drowsy, nodding brother,  
 And another, and another,  
 As I am doing—hurrah!

## 3 A.M.

Are we on sea or land?  
 The room is reeling, and  
 How murdering close its grown,  
 Ochone, Shane, ochone!  
 You're snoring like a drone;  
 And I wish I was out there  
 In the clear cold morning air,  
 For my brain is in a reel,  
 And I cannot rightly feel,  
 Which is to—topmost he—head or heel—  
 Faith, when the house is turning round,  
 We may conclude our Shamrocks drowned.

## A LAMENT FOR DONNYBROOK.

A LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL OF THE LIBERTY.

*Poeta Loquit.*

JIMMY, aghar, hand me my pipe;  
 In troth I'm as wearied as man can be;  
 My eye is as dim as the winter sea,  
 And my nose as sharp as the bill of a snipe;  
 For here for a week, a week and more,  
 I have been labouring body and soul,  
 Just sustained by whisky and *sassages*,\*  
 While I touched the finishing passages  
 Of my Donnybrook rigmorole.  
 Saints be about us, what are they driving at?  
 All sorts of people are taking their share—  
 All have their heads together conniving at—  
 At the destruction of Donnybrook Fair.  
 Once in the good ould times of the city,  
 M.P.'s, farmers, the rich and the rare,  
 Gentlemen, nobles, the wise, and the witty,  
 Went for a trifle of element† there.  
 Then was the rail indulgement in jollity,  
 Devil a one of them cared who was who;  
 All took their glass of the old Mountain dew,  
 And their hop in the tent on the ground of equality,  
 But now it is over—this is the last of them—  
 This is the last ould fair that we'll see;  
 Now we must live as we can on the past of them—  
 Such is the Corporation's decree.

Ah, never again in this isle shall be seen,  
 The rail boys up to the sweet oaken science—  
 Trailing their coats in courageous defiance,  
 And shouting the pililiu over the green.  
 Never again shall we see the shillelagh  
 Joyously splintering forehead and limb,  
 Or hear Molly Finucane crying—“Oh, me! a  
 Murder, what have you done wid my Jim?”  
 Never again, 'mid the turmoil or rattle,  
 Shall we assemble to shoulder the door,  
 Bearing dear friends, through the thick of the battle,  
 Faithfully home to their widows, asthore;  
 Leaving the pleasant old ground, when the short night  
 Of August was melting in matinal dew,  
 With a rib or two dinged, and an eye black and blue,  
 Or a wound that would lay us up snug for a fortnight;  
 While the rattle of sticks in the distance behind,  
 Made old Donnybrook look like a wood in a wind,

\* *Anglice*—“Sausages.”† *Element*, i.e. fun.

Now all is over—this is the last of them—  
 This is the last ould fair that we'll see;  
 Now we must live as we can on the past of them—  
 Such is the Corporation's decree.

. . . . .

Now my song is complete  
 In a halfpenny sheet;  
 To the window repair,  
 And, removing the hat  
 That my glazier fixed there—  
 Friend Pat,  
 Call out through the street  
 For the singers!  
 Call Biddy O'Dooley,  
 And Timothy Cooley,  
 Whose Bet's always wrangling  
 With the wife of the carman that takes in mangling,  
 Who blackened Tim's eyes when he payed her addresses,  
 But treated him decently after the fight;  
 Call Paddy O'Shaughlin,  
 And Mary M'Laughlin,  
 Who cries in the morning her sweet water-cresses,  
 And haddock at noon, and oysters at night;  
 Then, the washers of crape,  
 Don't let one of them 'scape;  
 And the sellers of tape,  
 Up to all sorts of hoaxes—  
 From turning suborners,  
 And dodging the police round tavern corners,  
 To dropping match-boxes,  
 And crying they're fated  
 To be ruined,  
 Till somebody quicker,  
 Or tender with liquor,  
 Takes out of his pocket  
 A casual copper:—  
 When off, like a rocket,  
 They rush for a cropper;  
 Sure their poor hearts would droop  
 If they didn't renew them,  
 So much good may do them,  
 The creatures—their drop.  
 Then call Maurice M'Gundy,  
 And Timothy Waller, a  
 Decent young chap as you'd see of a Sunday;  
 And Ould Kitty Cute, the vendor of apples,  
 A widow she is since the cholera—  
 You'll find her near Michan's or James's-street chapels,



And give her a whetter  
 Of stingo, at Morris's,  
 For who has a better  
 Ould tongue in the choruses;—  
 Troth, I don't know another,  
 Except Judy Harrison,  
 The chimney sweep's mother,  
 Can bear her comparison.

Well, you're coming at last.  
 Ah, then, Patrick M'Gundy, it's you that looks bright,  
 Wid that old soldier's coat you're a beautiful sight;  
 But you'll never look better, gossoon, than I wish ye,—  
 And you're left eye looks better since Saturday night;  
 If it wasn't, asthore, that your ankles are bare,  
 And the crown of your cawbeen is gone, I declare,  
 I'd suppose you belonged to the Galway Militia.  
 Sit down, lad, and comfort your sowl with a blast—  
 There's a pipe on the hob. Well, ould Kitty Cute,  
 And how do you thrive? Oh, the cost of the fruit,  
 Sure, I know, and the horrible price of potatoes.  
 Well, then, Kitty, my darlin', I'd wager a farden,  
 'Tis you that know how to inveigle the soft ones  
 To give you a penny a couple for croftons.  
 Sit down, and whatever misfortune may fate us,  
 We'll just have a drain of cowl'd Busby to heat us.

Now, away through the town wid ye, gossoon and man,  
 Sing as loud, and collect as much cash as you can;  
 And mind, if you happen to chance for to meet  
 One of them organ boys deafening the street—  
 Just to lay him down easy, and show his disparity  
 Wid people like us would be only a charity.  
 It's myself that would wish them esconced in bil hazes!  
 For, sure, but it's hard for a national bard  
 To see them chaps and their monkeys taking  
 The tin that we—*we* ought to be making,  
 Wid grinding their foreign Marsellaises;  
 Hairy fellows, that can't sing no more than a baby,  
 And yet have their pockets as full as a bank,  
 Wod their—"Dear mister sir, I am very much tank;"  
 Oh, it's disgustingly shabby.  
 Boys of the Liberty, don't stretch a fin to them—  
 Oh, pitch into them.

SONG—THE FAIR.

There are pompous tumblers bestriding  
 Platform and stage histrionic,  
 Inebriate monsters confiding

Together 'mid hiccups and glasses,  
 And lads entreating their lasses  
 To strengthen their hearts with a tonic,  
 Prescribed by a famous physician,  
 Long known in the regions of swillery—  
 The still-born liquid elysian  
 Of Jameson's hygiene distillery.

No, Donnybrook's glory's not o'er,  
 Or its frolicksome fairy less frisky;  
 Love there is as gay as of yore,  
 Though he lives rather less upon whisky.

Yes, all has grown changed of late,  
 Scarce a row ruffles the constable,  
 Leisuredly plodding his *bate*,  
 Winking 'neath bonnets of Dunstable;  
 No more the heads, masculine, smart,  
 While the lasses in tent, shade, and tavern,  
 For the innermost wounds of the heart  
 Have found out a remedy sovereign;  
 Now they sigh upon spruce ginger-beer,  
 For which their adorers have paid;  
 Who gallantly flatter each dear,  
 Sipping goblets of strong lemonade.  
 Yet, as we walk through the intricate  
 Maze of the old Brook's development,  
 Catch we at moments a wild, wicked  
 "Hurrah—there's nothing like element."  
 While country girls, first looking shy at us,  
 After their manner primordial,  
 Wink, laugh, and then dance sky high at us—  
 All on a trifle of cordial.

No, Donnybrook's glory's not o'er,  
 Or its frolicksome fairy less frisky;  
 Love there is as gay as of yore,  
 Though he lives rather less upon whisky.

## A HEALTH TO THE NATIONS.

### I.

DRINK to Italia, O !  
 To its vales and snowy mountains,  
 That guard the classic fountains,  
 And spreading plains below;  
 Where the light of glorious dreams,  
 With an antique glory gleams,  
 On the ruin skirted streams,

And the fields of vanished war;  
 To the mythologic shapes,  
 That shine through groves of grapes,  
 Or on olive covered capes,  
 In the pure Virgilian star;  
 Drink to Dante, Petrarch, Tasso,  
 Likewise to her last great basso,  
 To the long-haired folk who shrug and smoke,  
 In each damp Venetian casa;  
 To the stately dames with music names,  
 Who flicker and glide like love's own flames,  
 In the twilight dusk Piazza;  
 And while we drain the purple rain,  
 Of her bacchant sky, let's hope amain,  
 That the brightening page of her present age,  
 Is but the slender suture,  
 That joins the past, glorious and vast,  
 To a great exultant future;—  
 Health to Italia, O !

## II.

Next, a health to England, O !  
 And who can say but she needs it ?  
 Here's a health to the man who weeds it  
 Of ignorance, want and woe.  
 Yet, still as we think o'er the goblet's brink,  
 Let's drain her a bumper full, and drink  
 To her senates of eloquent faction,  
 Her people of reason and action,  
 To the enterprise that earnest flies,  
 Joining the snow and tropic skies,  
 In each great commercial paction;—  
 To the fields the Puritan fought on,  
 To the railroads, roast beef and cotton,  
 And to great London town,  
 Grave, foggy and brown;  
 With the wealth of the world and its river,  
 Grey skies and good ale to them ever;  
 And when in the ray of an ampler day,  
 The colonizing nation  
 Bases its might in souls made bright  
 From the Sun of Education;  
 Men's hearts will beat with a higher heat,  
 As they drain a cup to her fame and pour,  
 On her altar raised, 'mid the billows' roar,  
 A holier oblation—  
 Here's a health to England, O !

## III.

Here's a health to Scotland, O!

To the breezy downs and highlands,  
Blue lakes and foamy islands,  
Where the northern tempests blow;—

To the hearts that fiercely bristle

At the touch of force or wrong,

Yet bend to the air of an olden song,

Keen and pliant, keen and pliant, as a thistle;

To their judgments clear and cold,

That turn all they touch to gold,

That drive away the cares of clay,

With a deep, deep sup

From the toddy cup,

And a long disdainful whistle.

Then, hurrah for the nation of swipers,

For the land of the thistle, hurrah!

For its blue bonnets, oatmeal and pipers,

For the guid cakes they brown on the griddle,

And the tunes on the old highland fiddle,

Thy rosin with sulphur alway.

Whether friend or foe on their coast may land,

With a mercantile or an armed band,

They'd be sure to make him pay,

Either in blood or money—

Then to Scotland, blithe and bonny,

Let's drink and cry—hurrah—

Health to Scotland, O!

## IV.

Last, a cup to Ireland, O!

To the hills and dales that borrow,

A charm from the mists of sorrow,

Even while in the sun they glow;

To the honest Celtic faces,

To the genius of her races,

Which sheds its golden traces

Wherever they may go;—

To their courage, wit, affection,

Their joyance and dejection,

To the element that finds its vent

At wake, fair, or election.

May their souls burn ever brighter,

Their griefs grow daily slighter.

And while their hearts like feathers sail,

Before bright fortune's sunny gale,

Free from care and buoyant as air,

Kicking the beam of life's old scale—

May their pockets never be lighter:—

Health to Ireland, O!

## A MAY-DAY REVEL.

ONCE from the throne of Faery shrined,  
 'Mid wooded mountains, o'er the Bay  
 Of sweet Rostrevor, issued forth  
 An edict through the azure North,  
 Granting a jocund holiday  
 To beast and bird and insect bright  
 Then breathing in the Summer light :  
 A gracious edict, well designed,  
 Written in laughter, kingly kind,  
 And published on the morning wind.

Say, Muse of mountain wilds and streams,  
 Of wandering airs and glancing beams,  
 Say, frolic Muse, the cause of this ?  
 A simple cause : the King who bore  
 The ferny sceptre of Clough More  
 Was wedded just ; his bride adored,  
 A lively sprite of Carlingford,  
 With soul so dignified and pure,  
 And lips so lovesome and demure,  
 That every Fairy round that shore  
 Had given his kingdom for a kiss.  
 She being asked to name the day,  
 Fluttered her primrose fan, and then,  
 In tones as timid as a wren,  
 Said, " Let it be the first of May."  
 Whereat the monarch bowed and broke  
 The crimsoned silence, while he spoke  
 As follows, 'mid his courtiers gay :  
 " With judgment hast thou chosen the hour,  
 Thou sweetest Sprite of earth and air ;  
 And here beneath those eyes I swear,  
 By every sun-drop in the shower—  
 By every mountain-spray, and flower,  
 That, as of old, the festal sun  
 That lights the day of good St John  
 Shall view this space of shore and sea  
 Entranced in rich festivity :  
 Here, then, we yield by Sovereign law,  
 To all whom it concerns around,  
 By shore, or wood, or meadowy mound,  
 A joyous saturnalia."  
 He said : the scribe who waited near,  
 With thistle pen behind his ear,  
 Encharactered the royal brief  
 In haste upon a willow leaf ;

The while that gracious king, intent  
 On largess and the public weal,  
 With smiling forehead, o'er it bent,  
 And sealed it with his crocus seal.

Scarce was the proclamation borne  
 Along the wandering winds of Mourne,  
 When, on a hill the sheep who cropped  
 In slopes of dewy pasture green  
 (A dull day business of routine),  
 Pricked up their white mild ears, and—stopped ;  
 And toward the group a grave grey ram,  
 With cunning horns, and face of calm,  
 As such a patriarch king behoved,  
 Came paged by an attendant lamb ;  
 "You hear, my friends—a holiday,"  
 That specious guide was heard to say :  
 "Come, let us from those pastures pass ;  
 Here have we cropped whate'er we can  
 Of verdure, and to-day for man  
 We need not care one blade of grass ;  
 Come round by cool Kilkeel till dark,  
 Let's go, and have a quiet lark ;"  
 And heading straight his flock away,  
 They passed in sunshine towards the bay.

Then 'mid the giant oaks sublime  
 Around a stately fronted hall,  
 With ivied eaves and chimneys tall,  
 Red brick embossed with mossy rime,  
 The feathered choristers awake  
 For some three hours of golden calm,  
 At once surceased their matin psalm.  
 Some sauntered to the distant brake,  
 Whose ruddy berries hung profuse  
 Their pendulous cups of summer juice ;  
 Some winged them toward the waterfall  
 That through the granite flashed in foam,  
 And hopped, and dipped, and drank their share,  
 In joyousest abandon there ;  
 While others, keeping nearer home,  
 Thronged round the grassy garden lake.  
 Oh, such a frolic revel ne'er  
 Was seen beneath the dome of air !  
 Down from his chimneyed nest where he  
 Reflective, passed the smoky noons,  
 The speckled magpie dropp'd below,  
 Leaving his hoarded treasury

Of rags, and leaves, and gold doubloons,  
 Of straws, and bones, and silver spoons;  
 And with one black eye open wide,  
 And head a little bent aside,

    Stood chaffing with a cautious crow.

But what was this to the Tom Tit ?

    Beneath a broad laburnum's shade,  
 Elate with morning air he hung  
 Vivacious; chatted, prank'd, and sung;  
 And though the Magpie in the sun  
 Looked in sarcastic silence on,  
 He cared not ! but around him made  
 Each wren and robin of the glade  
 Shake in their feathers at his wit.

In fact, he held th' assembly's ear ;

    While round him, merrily and fast,

    Sweet song and conversation passed,

    'Mid new removes of seed and berry;

No lack appeared of jovial cheer,

Or harmony, save once, when there—

    A transient difference arose,

    But ended ere it came to blows—

    Between two sparrows, for a cherry.

Soon from his shadowy bed of straw,

    Where he had stretched the live-long night,

With keen nose laid along his paw,

    The watch-dog stroll'd into the light,

And shook himself : all through the noon

    Of darkness had he rested there,

    Quite undisturbed by noise or care;

    Though, now and then, for duty's sake,

He growled, to mark th' obtrusive moon

    Her proper distance o'er the lake,

    Or barked—to keep the house awake.

There, near a pool whose placid space

    Was dimpled by the insect throng,

    Big fussy flies with buzzing song,

    Grey gnats adroit, with tickling stings,

    And harmless water-sprites with wings

    Of splend'rous emerald and blue,

    A flashing, light, finessing crew,

That honest guardian took his place:—

    He snapp'd—he miss'd—again he snapp'd—

    He miss'd—for so the fortune happ'd;

    And as around him buzz'd and spun

    The myriad mischiefs in the sun,

    With each mischance he tried to smile,

    And nodding toward them said the while—

That, after all—" 'twas only fun !"  
 At which the Tit, with one neat *mot*,  
 Convulsed the company : and, lo !  
 The grey Ass in the paddock stood,  
 And gazed upon this passing sport  
 With discontented eye amort,  
 And gravely pondering, patient head.  
 Then taking some half-hour to think,  
 To knit each slow inductive link,  
 Observe, deduce, revolve, conclude,  
 With ears maturely raised, he said—  
 " Well, really—this is very good."

Thus sped the day o'er sky and earth,  
 Grown instinct with fantastic mirth ;  
 While elfest shapes beneath the trees  
 Roved in ecstatic companies—  
 And blackbird's song and insect's joke  
 On leafy branch or pleached flower,  
 In melody and sparkle broke,  
 To charm the sun's declining hour.

There, in the pleasant summer cavern  
 Of his honeysuckle tavern,  
 Sidelong stretched a tipsy bee,  
 Buzzing forth, inconstantly,  
 Incoherent hummings, funny.  
 Near, a comrade waxing spruce,  
 As he pruned him in the sun,  
 Droned a wise reproof to one  
 Less overcome with luscious juice;  
 Ere to his bachelor abode  
 (An oak tree on the townward road,  
 Hardby an effervescing spring)  
 He wandered on unsteady wing,  
 Chanting a bacchant song of honey.  
 Yet, like the rest, he reached his home  
 Before the drowse of twilight gloom,  
 Brimful of sunny recreation ;  
 Nor felt the least necessity  
 To use his sting that happy day,  
 Save when a bat who whirled along  
 The course of each returning throng,  
 Was heard maliciously to say—  
 " Bless my good eyes—what dissipation!"

Now falls the hour of evening rest:  
 The fresh wind puffs the fisher's sails;  
 The bee is hived, the bird's a-nest,  
 The udders spirt in foaming pails;



And twilight deepens past the bay,  
 'Till o'er the inland town afar,  
 'Mid flakes of cloud still rosed with day,  
 Sparks out some golden-cinctured star—  
 And strikes the river narrowing down,  
 With ruffled current as it flows,  
 By one old turret, lone and brown,  
 Sea-lapped, and sentinelled by crows.  
 Now, 'mid the slopes of furrowed earth,  
 The peasant drives his wearied yoke;  
 Now from the crackling cottage hearth  
 Mounts tranquilly the azure smoke;  
 Now, past the winding road anigh,  
 The drover guides his dusty sheep;  
 The lazy waggoner plods by,  
 Behind his slow horse, half asleep:  
 Now groups of rustic lad and lass  
 Beside the shadowy ferry throng;  
 Now through the bright mid-stream they pass,  
 With oars that time some homely song;  
 And beached at length above the sea,  
 Push homeward up each shadowy height,  
 While glimmers red and distantly  
 Their cottage window's welcome light.  
 The farms are hushed; beside their way  
 The dripping wheels of mountain mills  
 Stream in the leafy trickling ray;  
 The bon-fires blaze along the hills;  
 They hear the distant voices ring  
 In festal echoes of acclaim;  
 They see the wild forms hurrying  
 In twilight dances round the flame;  
 Till one by one each joyous sound  
 Dies off upon the lonely air;  
 The red fires drowse along the ground,  
 The dances cease, the hills are bare;  
 And as the sea-wind stirs the heath,  
 And silvery spring-tide floods the shores,  
 Nought save the moon on grey Omeath  
 Moves by the quiet cottage doors.

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## A STUDENT'S SUMMER RAMBLE.

### MORNING.

Lo! 'tis an August morn as we,  
 A Student group, move joyously  
 Toward heathy Howth, a distant lying,  
 Above its level gleam of sea.

The sky is bright, and breathing sweet,  
 Through airy boughs that o'er us meet;  
 The sun shines warm, and strews the roadway  
 With netted shadows round our feet.

And by the bay's side, warm and still,  
 Through miles of leaves we pace, until  
 Appears at length above the vapours  
 The blue spine of the nearing hill.

The dewy summer breathes before,  
 The rain fed runnels trickling o'er  
 The sunny chasms of ivied gorges,  
 Stream freshly down the silent shore.

Along the burning silver line  
 Of morning sea, the vessels shine  
 In brilliance indistinct: and near us  
 Soft meadows specked with quiet kine.

And distant cots in woodland shrined;  
 White vapours crisp as snow behind;  
 And on the bay the stately cutter,  
 With prim sail pointed to the wind.

Land, air, and sea, are full of light;  
 Our pulses spin; and fancies bright  
 Begin a healthy play, as upward,  
 Deep breathed, we scale the topmost height.

#### NOON.

Now flits the day o'er bud and bloom,  
 On blossomed furze and tufted broom;  
 Now darkening all the distance stretches  
 The purple hills in velvet gloom.

Killiney's peaks are lost in haze,  
 And streaming south the vaporious rays  
 Strike slanting o'er the Wicklow summits,  
 The azure coast, and sunny bays.

While norward, Lambay sloped a-lea  
 In passing noon lights, distantly,  
 Through mists of gold and violet beauty,  
 Shines like a dolphin o'er the sea.

On high, the clover slopes among,  
 We hear the corncrake's sultry song  
 Mix with the blackbird's mellow fluting,  
 From the copses, clear and long,

And in the caves beneath our feet,  
 The ocean's slow mechanic beat;  
 Tame summer swell of foamy surges,  
 Lapsing languid in the heat;

And voices from the deep mid bay,  
 Where, past the wind-dark drifts of grey,  
 The blithe yacht spooming through the azure,  
 Snows her slanting bows with spray.

At length we reached a shadowy dell,  
 Where the quick sparkling freshes fell,  
 Through strawberry wild and ivy trailer,  
 Into a bright and bubbling well,

In mossy basin, brown and pure,  
 That like a twilight fairy lure  
 Poured out through leaves and winking waters,  
 Its tranquil melody demure.

High banks of grasses, sleek and long,  
 Curtain the current, where, among  
 Blue violets, the prim-eared daisy,  
 Drooping, listens to its song,

And golden blossomed furze on high  
 Scents all the blue. Meanwhile we cool  
 Our glasses in the tinkling pool,  
 And as around the wine flask circles,—  
 "A Song, a Student Song," we cry.

#### STUDENT'S SONG.

##### I.

"Stay, Students, ye whose bright eyes shine  
 Beneath broad brows in evening's glow,  
 What deem ye of this realm below,  
 Bedecked with palace, camp and shrine?  
 What find ye here of truth divine—  
 What mode of life, what World is thine?"

##### II.

"Ah! still a visioned world we find;  
 Time touches not its years with grey—  
 But lit from empyrean day,  
 It rolls for ever, heaven enshrined;  
 Its flowers, the feelings soft and kind—  
 Its fruits, the growth of mighty mind!"

## III.

“A world that grows from age to age,  
 Still gathering splendour as its rolls  
 From the wide Universe of Souls  
 Who trace their record on its page;—  
 The Kings of Time, the bard and sage,  
 Who make their lives our heritage.

## IV.

“Each Spirit Shape whose labour cheers  
 The generations on their way;  
 Sons of the fruitful God are they:  
 The living hearts that charm our tears,  
 The vanished souls that o’er our years  
 Reign from eternal sepulchres.

## V.

“Theirs are the deeds the years enroll;  
 The blazon theirs that in Time’s sky  
 Burns in eternal heraldry;—  
 Great minds that shine like heaven’s pole,  
 Proclaiming, as the Ages roll,  
 Their souls’ descent from the Great Soul.

## VI.

“Their armies tread the tracts of night:  
 ’Mid ignorance embattled foes,  
 Their charmed spirit armour glows:  
 Heaven sounds the clarion for their fight,  
 Where, conquering with swords of Light,  
 They make the vanquished free and bright.

## VII.

“With these we strengthen brain and heart—  
 With these we temper thought and will,  
 Accumulating power still,  
 In love, in wisdom, and in art,  
 For future lives, beyond the dart  
 Of death and care, in spheres apart:

## VIII.

“The cultured blossom springs and grows  
 Upon a well selected soil,  
 And scatters round its seeded spoil  
 That still arising springs and blows  
 Superior: from the hedge briar glows  
 The full-leaved, perfume-souled rose.

## IX.

“And thus with man: as he is here,  
 So in the future will he be—  
 A weed throughout eternity,  
 A nature, dimmed with dust and tear,  
 Or sovereign soul—companion, peer  
 Of angels—Poet, Saint, and Seer.

## X.

“Oh, while through lower life we stray,  
 What matters if we poor remain,  
 While labouring for eternal gain:  
 Our wealth is that we bear away,  
 To lives beyond the morning ray,—  
 Beyond the suns of ruined day.

## XI.

“Such is the world to which we’ve fled,  
 Striving for pleasure less than peace  
 To nourish spiritual increase;—  
 A sphere in which the Soul is fed:  
 Searching for Truth with heart and head,  
 Even, brothers, while we work for bread.”

## EVENING.

Now sets the day on lowland brown,  
 On woody mound and spired town,  
 And sullen frith that narrows inland  
 Blooded with sunset sinking down.

Northward away, a billowy wreath  
 Hangs in the mingling space, beneath  
 Whose sallow light the streaks of stubble  
 Stretch toward the dusky slopes of Meath.

Tall merchant barques at set of sun  
 With full-sailed triple masts surge on,  
 White in the wind, as from the harbour  
 Booms the hollow twilight gun.

While far beneath the stealthy tide  
 Laps the dun sands of Malahide;  
 While ringed in wreaths of amber vapour  
 The moon looks o’er the prospect wide,

And glimmers on the distant skiffs;  
 The seagull wavers o’er the cliffs,  
 Or, breasted on the brightning billow  
 Yearns with a lonely cry, and dips

Secure within the silver wave,  
That lightning shores of pebbly pave,  
Washes, or sweeps its searching surges  
Into the throat of the gloomy cave.

Toward inland woods of thickening gloom  
We see the crow-line winging home;  
And Englandward across the azure  
The steamship, with its wake of foam:

We see the swift train passing o'er  
The crescent stretch of glooming shore,  
Now lost,—now lightning—hark! it crosses  
Some viewless bridge with rapid roar;

And hies away with lessening hum,  
Through silence following grey and numb;—  
Till o'er the low red west 'tis broken,  
By the beat of barrack drum. . . .

Then, as along the evening bay  
We homeward pace in vesper's ray,  
One sings above the glimmering waters,  
This refrain of our wandering day.

#### SONG.

##### I.

Away with grief, ambition, care;  
When summer round us glows,  
Let's seek the vale of life, nor dare  
Its summits and their snows.  
For fortune's smile is but a snare,  
And crowns are golden woes;—  
Up, Comrade! joy breathes in the air,  
As perfume from the rose!

##### II.

By hedges hums the bee, and seeks  
His sweets; the pigeons coo  
From yonder poplar spire that breaks  
The ocean's line of blue:  
Come, student, come, the distant peaks  
Are radiant, it is true;  
But faster fly the sunny weeks  
Than ever pinion flew.

##### III.

Let others tread the tracts of war,  
Or voyage the rolling brine,  
The simplest pleasures sweetest are,  
And thought and peace be mine;

Rich day, that floods the world afar,  
 Shall turn our blood to wine,  
 And sleep still drop from evening's star,  
 Its lotus wreath divine.

## IV.

Thrice happy he whose will's command  
 Can stem the tempest's might;  
 Whose fancy shakes the sullen sand  
 Of time till it grow bright;  
 Whom Nature vast and Spirit grand  
 Inspiring, morn and night,  
 Trips gaily through life's shadows, and  
 Luxuriates in its light!

## THE EXILE'S LAMENT.

## I.

Oh, my heart is with old times!  
 My friends have passed like marriage chimes;  
 And joy now breathes but from the rhymes  
 Of minstrels that I loved when young;  
 And in old songs that of a night  
 By hearth or summer evening-light  
 My dear companions sung.  
 The few that last from the pale past  
 Are silent, cold and grey.  
 Youth has fled—cares of existence  
 Dim its rainbow in the distance;  
 'Mid falling tears the world they tread,  
 With age and weakness wearied,  
 And souls that turn but to the Dead,  
 Ah, welladay!

## II.

Yon moon has never changed  
 Since o'er the far off fields I ranged,  
 Ere time grew dark or hearts estranged  
 In life's disastrous fight.  
 By windows then at eventide,  
 My love and I sat side by side  
 Amid the windy light.  
 The moon clouds past, and she at last  
 Is vanished far away.  
 Now my heart with memory passes  
 By her dear grave chanting masses;  
 Reading her loved books, and talking  
 With her as alone I'm walking—  
 Ah, welladay!

## III.

'Tis a night of New Year's Day,  
 The clanging chimes have ceased to play  
 And the stars look pale and grey  
     O'er the strange town where I dwell:  
 There are laughters in the street  
 Where the light young neighbours meet,  
 And the aged their stories tell.  
     But, there's One with me alone,  
     Who from heaven came this day,  
 (God grant my love speaks truly,  
 In the fancy wakened newly;)  
     Who from heaven came this day,  
 To search the earth for me,  
 By the grave that's o'er the sea,  
 By the old house on the lea—  
     Ah, welladay!

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## HYMN OF PROGRESS.

Lo! Venus lights the West; the day is done;  
 One hemisphere has darkened where it shone,  
     Or gleams with light such as the dead have smiled;  
 While courses our great planet through the vast,  
     Silent, ponderous, fast,  
 Its yearly journey, many millions miled.  
 Now nightward turns our mighty land its face,  
     Its cities, and its mountains, and its seas,  
     Lorded by earth's progressive race,  
 Toward th' innumerate heavens of the infinities,  
 That late o'er Asia's realms their lustre cast;  
 And, sleep to myriads, weary of the strife.  
 Food to the resting brain, narrows all human life  
 Here, unto nature's first created forms,  
     The vegetable and tree. Now the great sun  
     His glory from our latitude withdrawn,  
     Showers his creative fire 'mid golden storms  
     Over the western seas and lands, and pours  
     On the Tartarian shores  
 Its level-splendrous dawn:  
     Revolve, oh earth, that while one-half thy race  
     Wearied with labour for the other, rests,  
     One waking, shall achieve God's high behests,  
 Developing from nation unto nation,  
 One ever brightening, broadening civilization  
     In space.



## HYMN OF PROGRESS.

## I.

Lo! from this temple of Time look upon us earth's mighty  
 creations,  
 Figures of light and colossi of gold, by the soul of the  
 centuries cast;  
 The saints holy hearted, the clear-eyed sages, the sovereign  
 founders of nations,  
 The prophet-kings of the future world, and poet-gods of the  
 past.  
 Behold! how man has arisen from the narrow-browed friend  
 of the brute,  
 Hunting for food of the day, unprospectively, dark to the  
 next;  
 How the human tree, barren for ages, now splendours with  
 numerous fruit;  
 How every being who works is a sermon, with progress, the  
 text.  
 The free, rich life of Columbia and Europe productively shines  
 in the day,  
 And from the far East the long settled eclipse of the past is  
 clouding away;  
 Commerce, the strong civilizer of interest, the great educator  
 of arts,  
 Careers with its riches through every zone, illustrating earth's  
 mutual marts;  
 Land and ocean are conquered and utilized; steam power with  
 distance at strife,  
 Triumphant over, tends to economise, heightening the value  
 of life;  
 And, while through the printing press, mind speaks to mind  
 from pole unto pole,  
 Feeding, the while unifying the myriads, as one human soul,  
 Making each spirit a centre for the light of all intellect  
 here,  
 Developing ever the broadening circumference, radiant and  
 clear;  
 Thought swift flashes through the wire as the nerve, over  
 mountain, through main,  
 And the Telegraph narrows the round of our World to the  
 size of the Brain!

## II.

Lo! such are the victories man has achieved over nature  
 anear and afar,  
 With light and with time he measures their distance, satellite,  
 planet, and star;  
 Nay, even the Infinite but awaits the instrument designed,  
 To yield its wonders up to the senses, multiplied by mind.

The past yields up its secrets; from its vague primeval birth,  
 In the pages of the rocks he reads the annals of the earth;  
 Old languages, forgotten for long ages, speak again,  
 And ruins of the civilizations of forgotten men.  
 Thus the Life Spirit of our Planet, mastering matter and time,  
 Past, present, on the future now projects its light sublime.

## III.

What yet may man achieve amid that future, who can say?  
 Th' aerial car may safely guide us through the night and day;  
 New chemic compounds and new foods may lengthen human  
     life,  
 Annihilate all pain, increase our powers amid the strife;  
 Wise Congresses of Nations,—chosen brains,—dowered with  
     their might,  
 Shall legislate for common freedom, benefit, and right;  
 Shall universalize relations between place and place,  
 And neutralize by one symbolic tongue the bounds of race;  
 Hold but the sword to guard the commerce of the furthest  
     brine,  
 And let a richer world enjoy the genial feast of life divine.  
 Then shall true education deal with what the world requires,  
 With living thought and speech instead of ashes and past  
     fires,  
 So that each generation, rising radiant as the sun,  
 Shall learn what man mature has wrought, more than his  
     youth has done,—  
 Inventions more than languages of buried Greece or Rome;  
 Discoveries that point to revelations yet to come;  
 While, by experiment developed, highest faculties  
 Shall multiply the power, light, love of all the Earth's  
     Societies.

## IV.

Lo! nothing is too great or little now for man to comprehend;  
 He analyses sightless life, excursions to creation's end;  
 He pierces into nature's powers, minute or mighty, till we see  
 The monad's pulse, and now the forces acting through  
     infinity;  
 Determines where some viewless world should be, and when  
     amid the blue,  
 The comet, lost for ages, shall return to prove his figures true;  
 Thus intellect aspires to know, and all the works of God  
     rehearse;  
 Nay, weigh, even to a grain, each mighty telescopic universe.

# NOTES.

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## FROM ASIA TO ERIE.

*Page 9.*

Although the subject of this sketch is imaginary, and has no reference to the Milesian colony which arrived from the north of Spain some 1200 years B.C., all the primitive traditions of the Irish indicate the East—Central Asia—the east of Europe, the west of Asia-Minor, and even Egypt and N. W. Africa, as starting points of their migrations. Such remote traditions, like those of every ancient nation, must always remain cloudy and uncertain. At the same time, there are certain facts connected with even the most primitive, which give them an historical value, despite their legendary air—despite also the adaptation of the Biblical chronology, &c., to the annals of Erie, as we find it in Keating, and many of the old Irish books. Genealogy was the essential form of the primitive history of the Kelts as of the Semites; and for many ages before the introduction of Christianity the custom of comparing, reviewing, and revising the annals of Ireland had been an institution. During what extended periods the early events in the life of nations were transmitted orally, we need not say. In this way the Vedas, the Homeric ballads, the Servian, and other ballad literatures have been preserved with a singular accuracy; and in the same way the Finnic epic—the Kalewala, which contains even Turanian reminiscences of extremely remote periods, has been committed to paper from the lips of the poor nomads of the north only within the present century. Unlike the Kelts, the Finns have never had any extensive literature, while the Druids of the former in Ireland were in possession of the Ogham alphabets, which are instruments as available as any others for the transmission of thought, for many pagan centuries. When we consider that Hibernian Celtic traditions were handed down with great accuracy during the prechristian ages of this order, in an island fortuitously situated for their preservation, it being from its recluse position, removed from that chronic state of war which prevailed during those times on the continent—conditions which have obliterated the traditions of the Celts of Gaul and Spain; and that the races, of which the earliest chronicles exist had become extinct during a long series of colonizations and conquests—we are impressed by a probability that an element of truth forms the basis of that cycle of migratory legends, which Keating, who wrote the prefatory part of his history from manuscript bardic literature, has conserved; and are not surprised that they are as vague as the first chapters of every scriptural record which embodies the long unwritten memories of ancient epochs. Before the Celtic Milesians arrived from Spain, Ireland was occupied by many other peoples, such as those called Neimiedians, Fomoniens, Parthelonians, Fear Bolgs, Tuathas De Dannans. There is no reason to conclude that these immigrants were Gaels; and it is remarkable that many of the names of the descendants of such early colonizers, are much more Turanian and Cushite in their etymology than Celtic—a fact which illustrates the supposed occupation (in very ancient times) of Ireland by those peoples of whom neither Keating or the authorities from whom he compiled his work, had any idea. The oldest chronicles may be said, in one sense, to be the most authentic, as the object of annalist and

genealogist in such case was merely to fix the record of events without embellishing them. Tolland, and of late many others much more skilled in the Celtic literature of ancient Ireland, have arrived at the opinion that it is the most ancient and valuable in Europe. Yet, this early history remains almost unknown, compared, for instance, with the kingly period of Rome, of which the events occurred in a district not as large as the County Dublin.

There is a curious and oft quoted passage in Diodorus Siculis, which is supposed to relate to Ireland. He tells us that Hecateus—a native of Miletus, the capital of Caria—who wrote history before Herodotus—and some others, speak of an island not less in size than Sicily, lying in the ocean, over against Gaul, which is inhabited by the Hyperboreans, so called, because they are removed beyond the influence of the north wind. The climate is temperate, the soil so fruitful that they have two harvests in the year. There Latona is said to have been born, and there the worship of Apollo, (the Sun) obtains more than that of any other of the gods, he being honoured with perpetual praises. There he has a grove and a temple of round form, embellished with numerous offerings; there is a city also sacred to this god, in which the harpers hymn his praises. In ancient times, the Hyperboreans had a particular kindness for the Greeks, chiefly the Athenians and Delians. Some of the Greeks visited them and left gifts, and Abaris, an Hyperborean, travelled into Greece, and renewed the old league with the Delians. One of the most curious details is that in which he states that the moon is seen so close from this island, as to appear but a little distance from the earth—a statement which some have thought indicates the invention of the telescope in remote ages. This description certainly appears to relate more particularly to Ireland than any other island of the north, and illustrating the origin of the round towers, carries us back perhaps 3000 years. There is a Fenian poem describing the journey of Abaris to Greece. In Homer the Hyperboreans are called, *Epigones*, i.e., *epheach-gom*, the people of "vigorous kindred."

The British Islands were known through commercial relations in extremely ancient times to the east, as is manifest from the allusions to them found in Sanskrit literature. There England is called "Sweta-Sula, Isle of the White Cliffs; and Ireland *Surya Dwipa*, the Island of the Sun, or of sun worship. England is also called the Land of *Tapas*, and the most fitting place for performing *Tapasya*—i.e., a religious austerity." In the great Indian epic poem, the *Mahabharata*, Norada sets out to *Sweta-Dwipa* in the remotest north-west, to worship the original form of *Narayana*, which lives in that island; and in the *Ramayana*, when *Ravana* asks, where the mighty ones dwell, he is told by *Narada*—in the white island. Ireland is also called *Suvarna-dwipa*, the land of gold. The quantity of ancient golden ornaments which have been found in Ireland verifies this archaic title. The subject of the *Mahabharata* is the great war between the *Kurus* and *Pandus*, or black and white races, and refers to a period 1200 B.C., while the *Ramayana* is of a still earlier date.

Possibly the passage from Hecateus refers to an epoch when Ireland was in possession of the *Neimeditans*, whose name signifies "Worshippers of the Heavens"—a branch of the Cushite race, who, in prehistoric times, created the civilizations of *Iberia*, *Etruria*, and other regions of western and southern Europe. The *Fomonians*, represented as a pirate colony, came from Africa. The presence of Cushites in Ireland thus connects the island in ancient times with Egypt, with Africa, and Southern Spain, and illustrates some of our written traditions. It is not less curious than true, that Ireland was once occupied by a people whose typical tongue resembled that of the Berbers of Africa, and the Gallas of *Abysinia*. Vide *Baldwin's Prehistoric Nations*, an interesting compilation of modern research, containing several original views.

Among the early colonies to *Erie* was that of *Partholan*, who is said to have come from *Mygdonia* in *Thrace*—a region noted like all those from the north of the *Euxine* to the *Caucasus*, for the number of its races. The name, as explained by *Phœnician* and *Celtic* affinities, has pretty much the same meaning—i.e.,—the man of the scattered race, or the source

of a race ejected from this country—a leader of exiles. *Par-toll-ae* (Celt) *par tulm* Phœnician. Among the Thracian peoples were the Getæ, once supposed to have been the ancestors of the Goths, although differing widely from the Germans in manners. One of the ascertained Getic names is that of the god they worshipped—Gebelezin—from whose Celtic roots—*gibeal*—*leis*, the outer or covering splendour, they appear to have been sun worshippers, while their own name, *Getæ*, indicates their care of agriculture. The immortality of the soul was a doctrine of the Thracian sages. They believe that after death—says Herodotus, they go to Zalmoxes—i.e., Salm-mochd-leis, the great light of the sun. Thrace supplied the Greeks with many of their traditions. They had no writings in their country before those gained from the Thracian bards or Druids, who are identical with the Orphenas. “Linus,” says Diodorus, “was the first who wrote the history of the elder Dionisius in Pelasgian letters, which were also used by Orpheus,” whose name, *ur-fis*, signifies, man of the trees, or perhaps of the “letters.” The Ogham alphabet possibly was in use among the Celtic and other nations of Thrace long before the introduction of the Phœnician characters of Cadmus, which, according to Herodotus, were afterwards changed both in form and sound by the Greeks. It is noteworthy that the letters of the Irish alphabet have each the name of a tree; and if with this fact we connect the supposition that Orpheus was a Thracian Druid, the fable of his having caused the trees (or letters) to follow the music of his lyre, resolves itself into an intelligible metaphor.

*Miletus*.—This city, the capital of Caria, was noted in ancient times as the chief colonizing centre in Asia-Minor. Seneca says the Milesians sent out 380 colonies, while others limit the number to 80. Many cities were colonized, if not founded by this people, on the shores of the Black Sea. It is singular that the meanings of these names are better explained from their Celtic than their Greek derivatives—a peculiarity which applies still more to the local names in Greece. Thus we have *Tomi* (*tom*, a grove); *Odessus*—*odh es uss*—abounding either in food or intelligence, in the sense of news; *Cyzicus*—*ceith-each as*—the great market of horses; *Cerasus*—*cur asaidh*—the resting place of the expedition; *Sinope*—*sine obair*—the elder place of workmanship; *Cotyora*—*coth-urach*—the place where food is protected—a fortified granary, &c. To the north of Miletus rose Mount Messogis, a word identical with *Ogygia*, the old name of *Ionis*, meaning the new pleasant country. Miletus was called the *Lelegean* city, from its having been occupied, before the arrival of the Ionians, by the *Leleges*, who are numbered in the *Iliad* among the Trojan forces.

*Beyond where the Cynesii dwell and the Celtæ marshal their legions*.—The *Cynese* are mentioned by Herodotus as the remotest people inhabiting beyond the gates of *Hercules* (Gibraltar) and the *Celtæ*. The name *cinea*, signifies the people of the sunset or evening. *Celtæ*, according to Herodotus, was the name by which the Gauls were known to themselves. Diodorus particularly alludes to their remarkable attire, coats of variegated colours, interspersed as if with flowers, their tunics secured with gold and silver clasps and belts, their variegated shields with numerous emblems worked on them, and their imposing warlike habiliments. They are handsome in appearance, he says. The name *Keltae* evidently signifies (*cel-tae*) careful of their dress. In the Scotch kilt we have a corruption of the word *Celt* (raiment). The root, as Stokes in his edition of Cormack's glossary remarks, seems to be the Sanscrit, *cal*, to cover; or, *cel*, to conceal—hence the old Norse, *hele*—the hidden place, and our Anglo-Saxon “hell.” In ancient Ireland caste was regulated by the colour of the dress. Thus, there was one colour for a slave, two for a soldier, three for officers, four for biatachs, five for lords of districts, six for an ollum or king. The Celts possibly adopted a characteristic name which distinguished them from their neighbours. The Iberians and Celtebrians, whose universal dress was dark-coloured, and whose women wore black veils—a custom still preserved in Spain.

*Earth's Cimmerian North*.—In Homer, the Cimmerians inhabiting the Asiatic region, north of the Black Sea, are placed in a land of darkness,

In Herodotus, whose geographical knowledge was more extended, they are placed in a region of day. The name is identical with Scythian, or nomad—cime—riagh, always wandering; like the Etruscan *Rasena—ra sen*, spring from wandering ancestors. Diodorus states that the word *Cymbri* is but a modification of *Cimmerii*.

The *bright Opoll*.—The Greek derivation for Apollo is, from a root meaning to defend or avert. The Celtic *Opoll*, omnipotent force or splendour, conveys a more primitive idea of solar power.

Hades—ad (intensitive particle) and *aes* age—the place of the old—the grave.

That the length of the voyages and knowledge of navigation possessed by ancient peoples has been much under rated by the moderns, is now rendered evident by philology, ethnology, and archæology. There seems strong grounds for supposing that the ancient Peruvian and Mexican empires, which so strikingly resembled the Egyptian, obtained their civilization from the same race which founded that of Egypt. The power of the descendants of Cush had become extinct before that of the Helenes had arisen; one of the Greek traditions connected with the existence of the kingdoms they founded in the western continent, is now to be found in the Atlantic Island of Plato, who derived his account from the Egyptian priests. But, even before the arrival of this people in Ireland, the island has passed through a series of occupations by other races, such as those who erected its cyclopean architecture. It is almost unnecessary to say that such monuments were not the forts or tombs of a Celtic people, but of one unknown, who had come from the Southern regions of the Asiatic World. In the Indian Deccan there are multitudes of such rude structures, which extend along South Arabia, and North Africa, through Spain, and Western France.

The Celts were the first historic Indo-European people who passed from Asia to Europe, as the Greeks were the last, after an interval of several thousand years. Both the Greek and Latin languages were, it is said, developed from the Pelasgian, or that which prevailed in ancient times along the West of Asia Minor and in the Hellenic and Italic peninsulas before their historic civilization. Some suppose the Pelasgians to have spoken a Slavic dialect, others that its residue is to be found in the Albanian dialects chiefly; but, if it was this people to whom the ancient local names in the regions just mentioned are to be referred, there seems little doubt that they spoke an early form of Celtic. The Greeks—whose history, Josephus says, “was but of yesterday”—found this nation in possession of the peninsula, in some parts of which they became mingled up with them, while in others—as Attica—they were, according to Herodotus, developed from them, and, hence, certainly derived from them these traditions which they subsequently enlarged and beautified in the Hellenic mythology. From this people Greece was anciently named, *Pelasgia—fel—ascath—ia*, the nation of champions and bards, and the name lingered long in Pelasgian Argos, and Thessaly. From those aborigines (*ur—ai—ghé—an—ae*, valliant dwellers on or possessors of the land) they derived a stock of traditions which, in their mythical form, are little intelligible. Many of the oldest come from Thrace and North Greece. Such as those of the Jupetrians and Titans. Of the former kings, Varro states there were 300 so called; and these, judging from the Celtic components of their titles—*ua—feth—tir*, and *ti—tan*, were respectively the early people who possessed a knowledge of agriculture, and the later race who were acquainted with the use of metals and arms. This explanation illustrates the story of the wars of which the Olympian region was the scene. The agricultural race, unable to contend with a people better armed and weaponed, ascend the mountains, and hurl rocks upon them—the thunderbolts of Jupiter. The light which Celtic derivations throw on some of the unintelligible Greek myths is at least curious. By simplifying they lead us back to their origin. For instance, Cerberus is, *cer—bur*, the wrathful or raging stag, whose horns and head imagination transformed into a three-headed monster. Orcus would be *ur—gus*, the land of death.

Ionia in Asia Minor was called *Ogugia*, a name which, according to Plutarch, was given to Ireland; *og-uigh-ia*, the new pleasant country. *Ogygia* has no Greek derivatives. Phrygia was the cradle of the Greek languages, whose Ionic dialect became perfected in Western Asia Minor, as its Attic in Attica, and its *Æolic*, which has a closer affinity to the Sanscrit than the others, in Northern maritime Greece. The name of the Iones is usually derived from *ion*, wandering, migratory. In the Puranas, however, they are called *Yauvana*, the young people or nation—the latest which had become known to the eastern Aryans, and are represented as the progeny of the Kshatriyas, the warrior caste of India. "So many destructions," says Josephus, "have happened to the land the Greeks inhabit, blotting out the memory of former times, that they were always beginning a new way of living." And in a remarkable passage in the *Timæus* of Plato, the priest of Sais says, that they were always children; an old Greek never existed: they have all modern minds and no traditions or knowledge of any kind that has grown hoary with age. Scarcely had they invented writing and other arts, when there came down from heaven, at certain intervals, great floods which spared only the ignorant and uneducated, so that they had to start afresh from the beginning, as though they were a young people, and knew nothing of what had occurred in this country in the olden times, when it was inhabited by the fairest and noblest race of men, from the small remnant of which that remained, the whole of the Greeks proper descended. Their past has been forgotten, because they who perished left no written records. Before those catastrophes, he says, the Athenians were glorious in war and legislature; and goes on to allude to the great empire which, in ancient times, extended over the Atlantic Island, which was as large as Lybia and Europe, and which extended over Europe as far as Etruria. The flood mentioned, that of Ducalion, occurred from the melting of the snow on the Cambunian mountains, by which the Vale of Thessaly was deluged, and its inhabitants destroyed. The old priest of Sais assigns a period, 9000 years previous, for the disappearance of the Atlantic Island, which many, who do not accept the idea of a communication having existed between the Ethiopian nations and America, regard as a fiction. According to a modern mathematical theory, deluges occur each 10,500 years from the change in the earth's axis. The deviation, which occurred in the position of perihelion from two centuries before 1248 A.D., caused that disappearance in the snows of the Alps and Switzerland, which since that time has rendered Europe warmer.

Josephus does not believe that the Greeks had the use of letters at the time of the Trojan war, and adduces the many variations in the text of Homer to prove that the songs relating to that event had been handed down memorially; conditions which would imply that a bardic order, similar to that of the Druids, had existed in Western Asia. The Greeks, says Max Muller, knew as little about the original meaning of their myths as they did of their etymology. They changed the names of nations, &c., says Josephus, to others which sounded well in their own language. Pausinias, too, remarks that, having read the poems of Linus and Hesiod, he found them full of interpolations, and much altered from their original form; and it was the same with those which pass under the name of Homer. These, Pisastratus—a name which implies, the man who conveyed knowledge from beyond the sea—brought from Ionia in the sixth century B.C. It is hardly necessary to remark, that the name Homer (*omeros*), even according to its Greek derivation, does not indicate the individual authorship of the great rhapsodies of war and travel, but their collector or editor; like that of Vyasa, the arranger of the fictions contained in the Indian epic, the Mahabharata; yet both Homer and Vyasa have become historical personages with legendary biographies.

In connection with the theory that the Pelasgians of Western Asia Minor and Greece were a Celtic speaking people, and with the fact that the original meaning of local names in Greece and Western Asia, and those of its legendary history, are rendered more intelligible by Celtic roots than Greek derivations; it may not be uninteresting to add, that

the Celtic components of the name, "Omeros," would verify the supposition of this word having been applied to the editors or collectors of the Ionian ballad literature, founded on Pelasgian traditions, relating to the great struggle between Peninsular Greece and Asia, known as the war of Troy; for, *omhal-osadh*, signifies, "a concord" or "confederacy of poets." It may be added, that the prefix of the Irish term for a poet (*omhal*), that is—*om*, is the mystic word with which each of the Indian Vedas commence, and by pronouncing which God created the universe. In this respect it resembles the word. *oiv* (harmony or music), which, according to the Triads, had a similar interpretation and application; it being at once the name of Deity and his creative fiat. *Om* in Sanscrit is a demonstrative particle meaning, *that* God, and in its general signification has a reference to creative power. Thus, the Celtic word *Omhal* may be a compound of this primitive particle *om* and *ala*, *i.e.*, "creative skill or craft."

Gladstone supposes the Pelasgians to have come from Media, where, to the present day, (Malcolm's Persia) a tribe named Elleat, bear a resemblance to the Helli. Elleat is a Celtic word, meaning *ell eata*, the "ancient multitude," the old nation.

We append a few Celtic derivations illustrative of the meaning of old Greek, Latin, local, and personal names, premising that the Greeks changed the Celtic *f* into *p*, and the Latins into *v*.

Arcadia, *ar-cadhach-ia*, the land of friendly husbandry. Argos, *ar-gus*, the power of husbandry. Actæa, the old name of the stony Attica, *aca-teach*, the rocky abode. Thessaly, *tus-alach*, the foundation or origin of the young generation. The vale of Tempe, *tem feabh*, dark with woods. Olympus, *ol-ump-fos*, the great earth wall, or wall of the earth. Macedonia, *magh-ae-don-ia*, the country of plain and city; it was anciently called Emathia, *em*, expositive particle; and *atha*, green plain. Laconia, *luch-on-ia*, the country of suffering kindred, in allusion to the Helots; *ell-othar*, the multitude of labour. Perea, *fear-ia*, the land of men. Mygdonia, *magh-dun-ia*, the country of plain and city. Marathon, *mor-atha*, the green plain by the sea. Ithaca, *etha-acha*, the rocky corn land. Salamis, *salamah*, the island of the men of the sea. It has been recorded that Troy was a satrapy of Nineveh; but part of its population came from Thrace, *i.e.*, the Teucerians who mingled with the Phrygians, *teuch-reuch*, the men of great achievements. It is noteworthy that the Irish word, troid, means a place of contest. Troia was also called Dardanie, *dur-danair*, the city of the "foreigners of the sea." Achille's myrmidons signify, *mur-mudan*, the protecting wall or bulwark; the Danaoi of Argos, *dan-aoi*, the undaunted confederacy. The Greek Vulcan is Uphastos—*i.e.*, *Upadh ais tos*, the first hill sorcerer—a title which carries us back to the times when the race which had become acquainted with metallurgy were regarded as magicians. Ilythia, goddess who presided over the birth of children, was she who was invoked to give the mother—*il-uth*—much suck. Among the Romans she was called Lucina. Ovid derives the word from Lucus, a grove, which shows how completely the original meaning—*lua sinne*, the hire of the breast, was lost. The practice of spreading a couch for Juno Lucina in houses when a delivery was expected, illustrates the custom of preparing for the nurse.

Among various personal names, mythologic and historic, take—Prometheus, *fromhadh-us*, the trial of skill or intelligence. Ducalion, the Noah of the Thessalian flood; *du-gal-ion*, he who found his kinsmen a sitting land; or, perhaps, the word *cala*, a harbour, may enter into the name as into Calydon, the fort or city of the harbour. Cadmus, *cadh-mus*, the agreeable or enlightened friend. Tantalus, *tan-tala*, he of the "hall of fire." Among Homeric heroes: Agamemnon, from *agach*, brave. Diomedes, *dea-mead*, the man of huge size. Achilles, *ag-ill-es*, the greatest destruction of battle. Acacides, *ae-agh-adaes*, men superior in fighting. Nestor, *nes-tor*, ready in reply. Ulysses, *oll-us-ase*, man of the greatest intelligence. Aeolus, who invented sails; *ae-oll-is*, the man potent on the water. The Danides, *dan-adh*, those of the terrible destiny. The Gorgons, whom some suppose to have been Amazons, and others huge birds; gorg, on, fierce and swift.



Medusa, meid-usahd, hugeness and power. The affinity between the Greek and Celtic is seen not only in traditional names, but those of kings and poets, such as Lycurgus, *luchar-gus*, the force of light or intelligence. Anacreona, *ana-creona*, the old drinking cup,—evidently a nick-name.

Almost all the literary men of Rome, as Zeuss remarks, have Celtic names, most of them having come from Cisalpine Gaul, Samnium, and Apulia. Thus we have Catullus descended, doubtless, from some Celtic chieftain; *cath-ail*, rock of battle. Virgillus, *fear-gil*, or *fear galla*, the man of the water or of valour. Lucretius, *lugh-creth*, lively hearted. Caius Julius Cæsar descended from the kings of Alba in Celtic Samminia, which was afterwards included in Latium.

*Caius* or *Gaius*, *gai-ae*, spearman; Julius, *jul-æ*, the leading or learned; and Cæsar, *aes-er*, godlike or superior man. Suetonius, who tells us on the occasion of the first letter of Cæsar on the statue of Augustus having been struck away by lightning (C stands for 100), the Auspices interpreted the circumstance, that the Emperor would only live a hundred days, adds that *asar* is the Etruscan word for "God," in Irish; *ae*, man; and *sar* (sign of the superlative case), greatest. That a Celtic people gave its local names to Etruria, and that the old personal names of gods and men are likewise Celtic is evident. Thus the Etruscan Jupiter was called Tina. *Tin* has several meanings, such as the beginning, fire, the sun. In Irish God is named *Ti mor*, the great fire, the origin of all things, a title derived from the days of solar worship. Juno is called Kupra, from *cupar*, conception, she being the goddess who presided over marriage. Mars, was Mavors, *ma-for-aes*, the good guardian. Venus from *bun*, root and origin; and *ae*, men. Their Thatna, is the Irish Dagna, the good god Jannus or Sanus, *san-aes*, eminently holy. Pluto was Mantus, *i.e.*, old. We have before alluded to the name by which the Etruscans called themselves—Rasena. *ra sen-ae*, men sprung from migratory ancestors. Of course the Celtic colonization of Etruria was long subsequent to its Ethiopian. Among the early names in Roman history is Lars Por-sena, *lar-por ceann*, the ancestor of the tribe of the city, or chief ancestor of the hearth and home—*pater familias*. Tullus Hostilius—*tulach*, the chief; *os tulach*, over-proud, aristocratic. Ancus Martius—*anchait*, *mareach*, the friendly knight. Lucumo, name originally given to the chief men of the Etruscan cities, who exercised the functions of priest, auspices, &c. *Luch-umo*, the chief or conductor of burials. We need not allude to the mortuary ceremonies which formed so important a part of Etruscan civilization, as it did in Egypt, from which they were perhaps copied. The universality of the image of the Sphinx in Etruscan burial grounds, as in those of the Tarquini, show the close relations that existed between those lands. In both countries the home of the dead was of much more importance than that of the living, hence the permanent character of their tombs and the comparative fragility of their domestic architecture. It would occupy too much space to show that all the Etruscan districts, hills, rivers, cities, bear Celtic names. The Roman Tiber comes from *tibhre*, a spring or fountain. The pyramidal hill Soracte, so marked an object to the north-east of Rome, is *sorc acha*, the conspicuous rock. The snowy Nar, from nar, white as milk; Clanis, clan is, the river of the tribe. Even the Roman Toga is Celtic—*togach*, meaning election, the chosen. The dress of the *gens togata* was that of the chosen citizens. Sennatus, *seannus*, authority, collective power. The relation between the Celtic and Latin has, indeed, been long since shown. All words in the latter relating to war or policy, have their originals in the former language. In the oldest specimens of Latin, such as the laws of Numa in Festus, the hymn of the Fraters Arvales, the old Celtic terminations in *oi* and *od* are still retained.

The object of these brief derivative notes is to indicate the expansion of a Celtic speaking people over Europe in ancient times, to indicate their influence on the civilisation of those countries which were once called Pelasgian, and to direct the attention of scholars who, at present, rely on the Sanscrit as the chief derivative exponent of the Indo-European languages, rather than the more primitive Celtic, to a subject which is, at

least, as well worthy of consideration as many of the theories which abound in those days of philological speculation.

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Leogir, the Celtic name of Southern Britain, as *Cymru* was of the West, and *Albin* of the North. *Buadice*, commonly spelled *Boadicia*, the queen of the *Icenii*. The name is possibly derived from *Buad-each*, the power of the state; though it may also be taken from *Buadeach*, potent in horses, in allusion to her army, the greater part of which was composed of cavalry and chariots; "whose onset was not to be withstood," says *Dion Cassius*, in his description of the battle, which she fought with the Romans under their General *Suetonius*. Like most classicised Celtic names, it is but the fragment of a title. In *Tacitus* this queen is called *Bodduca*. *Bodhulh*, pronounced *Bod*, was the Gaulish goddess of war, and the Irish also, as may be seen from the battle of *Magh Rath*. *Bod* also means "war," and thus *Bodduca* would signify "the cause or originator of war." Doubtless various names were given to this famous queen, as customary by the Celtic bards. *Loarn* and *Forillæ* were Pictish or Scandinavian heroes. *Blathnaid* is Celtic for blossom; *Lassairfhina* for the flame or blush of wine. *Feithfailge* is a pretty name, meaning "a honeysuckle of ringlets." The meaning of the other Irish female names—which are always poetic—like those of most old nations, is indicated. The *Sea of Icht*, or friendly sea, was to the south of *Erin* and the channel between Britain and France; the northern the *Sea of Ork*, the Irish for a whale—hence the name of the *Orcades*. *Leath Mogha* included *Leinster* and *Munster*. *Magh Sleachta*, the plain of slaughter, was the site of the famous *Druidical* temple dedicated to *Crom Cruach*, the *Moloch* of the Pagan Irish, in *Leitrim*. *Fear Bolg* is usually and most absurdly derived from *bolg*, a bag, founded on some legend that the *Fearbolgs* brought bags of earth with them from Greece to Ireland; whereas it means simply, the men of cattle, the early pastoral people who were in possession of the island before the arrival of the more civilized *Tuatha de Danaans* by whom they were subjected. This latter mysterious tribe of musicians and magicians has given rise to much antiquarian speculation. Traditions state that they arrived in Ireland from Scandinavia, after having resided in Greece. Some suppose they were a tribe of poets or musicians—possibly a migration of some of the British Druids, whom wars may have caused to seek safety in the neighbouring island, just as did the former in the reign of *Claudius*. Literally, *Tuatha de Danaan* signifies "the tribe of the Gods of the Danaans," which latter word may either be referred to *dan*, a poem, or corruption of *danar*, a Dane, foreigner. The collective appellation resembles the Scandinavian *Gothiod*, which, in the older *Edda*, means both the people of the "Gods" and the "Goths." Some Scandinavian *Scalds* may have visited the oracle of *Dodona* in Greece and learned some of those arts connected with fortune-telling and necromancy with which they made such a powerful impression on the *Firbolg* race. To the present day the faery raths are said to be haunted by their spirits. The subject of this ballad—in whose style there is a slight imitation of the old Irish poems—is taken from a couple of lines in an ancient chronicle. *Lassairfhina* is pronounced *Lassarina*.

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*Gno Beag* and *Gno More* were the districts south and west of *Lough Corrib*, whose ancient name, *Orbsen*, was derived from a Danaan chief of that name, who was also a great merchant, and known by the *soubriquet* of *Mac Lir*, or Son of the Sea: he was killed by *Abradhruaidh* of the *Red and Brows*, by the side of this lake. *Guaire Aidhne* was King of *Connaught*, famed for his hospitality—hence the saying "generous as *Guaire*." The *Flaithbeartach*, whose name signifies "heroes of deeds," were chiefs and kings of *Muintir*, *Murchadha*, *Clare*, and *Iar Conach*, or *West Connaught*. *Guaire Aidhne* means great or noble man. The reference in this ballad is to the first of the two who bore this title. *Tir Moil*, the place of piled up heaps or tombs, on one of the *Binabola* Mountains. That the Druids, who

were of three orders—Druids proper (from *drus*, great knowledge), ovals, and poets—used the sword in battle as well as the harp to celebrate it, is noted in several passages of Irish history; for instance, in the battle of Dubcormar, in which Fiach lost his crown to Huas Collas. Here the monarch's favourite Druid was killed. Lir, the Celtic God of the Sea. It is unnecessary to say that the immortality of the soul was a doctrine of the Druids.

*Alii rediturus putant animas obeuntum; alii*

*Etsi non rediant non extingui tamen, sed ad beatiora transere,* says Pomponius Mela. Conmaicene Mara, the name of several districts in Connaught, derived its title from Cormac, one of the three sons which Queen Maud presented at a birth to Fergus, the exiled king of Ulster. Ceara is in the county Mayo. Clan-Cathal—the clan of warriors.

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This ballad sketch is a versified Biography of Saint Patrick. The period in which it is supposed to be spoken is A.D. 400—about three years before his death. Uladh is the Celtic name of Ulster; by the Danes it was called *Uladh-stir*, the land of Uladh—hence Ulster. Snam Aignech was the name of Carlingford Bay. Aengus was the disciple of St Patrick, whose original name was Succat, meaning "powerful in war." He was born, as he states in his confession, at Nemthur, another name for Alcluaid, the rock of the Clyde, *i.e.*, Dumbarton. When sixteen he went to visit some of his relations at Letha, the Celtic name for Brittany—meaning the country along the sea—as it also was for Italy; and had just arrived at Gessoriacum (*gis-rioh* meaning the king's stronghold—the modern Boulogne), where the seven sons of Sechnaid ravaged the coasts, took himself, his brothers and sisters prisoners, and sold them in Ireland, which St Patrick in his confession always calls Hibernia. Lupait, his sister, was sold in Leinster; St Patrick in Dalaraidhe. The name Patrick is doubtless, a corruption of Patricius, the title of a Roman citizen, or citizen of one of the Roman colonies. Aith Cliath is Dublin. Leogaire was King of Leinster at the time of St Patrick's mission; his contest with the Druid of this king, who died a Pagan, is mentioned in several authentic writings. Grian is the old name of the sun, Easga of the moon, Lir of the sea, of which they were respectively the gods. The desert in which Patrick was cast by the Pagan sailors after his escape from slavery, is supposed to have been the north of Caledonia, which had been ravaged by the Picts—a word originally applied to all Scandinavian peoples. Dubtach was the chief Druid of Ireland in Leogaire's reign. The mission of St Patrick to Rome, where he was made Bishop of Ireland by Pope Celestine, is recognised in the above poem, although not endorsed in Dr Todd's admirable life of the Apostle of Ireland. Germain was bishop of Auxerre. The name of the tribe, Senones, is from *sen on*, descended from noble ancestors. Jurassa (Mount Jura) is from *Jur*, as the loud noise of cataracts. Feis Day, is the feast day at Tara. Theodosius was Emperor of Rome, and of the east (as Honorius of the west), when St Patrick arrived at Rome, but his court then resided at Ravenna. The late Gothic invasion, and that of the Huns under Attila, had rendered the old capital too dangerous a centre for an imperial residence, and the government had been removed to Byzantium. Drúim Sailech, the hill of willows, is the old name of Armagh. Daire was a great chieftain and merchant in those days, and it was by him the land was given to St Patrick for the erection of a church—Ard, church, and mache, supposed to be the name of some ancient queen. St Patrick's family appear to have been settled in Ireland in his latter years. Tradition states that one of his sisters, Liamain, was married to Restitatus, a Longobard, by whom she had seven sons, the eldest of whom, Sechnel, became Bishop of Armagh. Some years since Dr Petrie discovered, in the island called Inis, an ghoill craibhtigh, or island of the devout foreigner, in Loch Corrib, a tombstone whose date was of the sixth century, and which bore the inscription, "Lie Lugnædon Macelmene"—the stone of Lugnail, son of Liamania. Lugnædon is the genitive of Lugnad, he youngest of the seven sons of Liamain. The poem ends with a short

prayer, the substance of which is taken from the authentic hymn of St Patrick. *Lorica*, a recitation, which averted the influence of demons and dangers spiritual and temporal. *Lorica* is the same as the Irish *Luirech*, a breastplate. Aengus was a disciple of St Patrick. Mediolanum (Milan) seems to come from the Celtic *Meid-ola*, abounding in olive trees. That a Celtic speaking people occupied Cisalpine Gaul is a matter of history, and that they were once possessed of other districts of the Italic peninsula—Umbria Samnium—is testified by local and personal names. Thus, under the Latin form *Sabina*, we recognize *sab-eineach*, the people "under the protection of the sun," God, &c. However inexplicable the Ethiopic language of Etruria, or, as the Greeks called it, *Tursœnia* (the country of hill journeys) may be, as it is exhibited in the Eugubian tables and in inscriptions, almost all its local names are Celtic; no less its personal names, as those of the early kings of Rome—Romulus—romh-ull-æs, the first great man; Numa—nua-ma, the "strong and good" king; *Ta'quin*—*tur-cine*, head or leader of expeditions or journeys. The root *tur* is a prefix of many Etrurian names, as it is of the Gaulish Mercury—Turmes, the god of travellers and merchants. All the words connected with war and politics in the Latin language are Celtic, as has been long since remarked—the two languages have the same relation to each other as the Anglo-Saxon to the English. Both Zeuss and Pictet consider the Hibernian branch more valuable, on the score of antiquity, than the Cymbric, although the former has chiefly used Cymbric glosses in his grammar.

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Some time before the year A.D. 555, Curnan, son of Eochy Tior-macara, king of Connaught, who had been under the protection of St Co'umba, was put to death by Diarmud Mac Carrol, the chief monarch of Ireland. This circumstance led to the great battle of Cula Dreimhne, fought near Sligo, in the above-named year, between the forces of Meath and Leinster. Diarmud reigned until 558, when he was slain by Aodh Dubh, son of Subhne, king of Dalaradia, at Rath Beg, in Moyline, near the town of Antrim. Columba is the Latinised form of *Colom-cile*, "servant of the Dove." He founded the great abbey in the island of Hy (Iona), where he died 594, and from which his remains were removed to Down, in the 9th century, and re-interred at Downpatrick, with those of St Patrick and St Bridget. Feal Lodain is Lough Foyle. Cantire, in Antrim, was the cradle of the Dalaradian race, one of whose principal tribes was the Cinil Loarm Mor, from whom descended the chieftain Macbeth. Rath Mora was a palace fortress of the old kings of Ulster, near Lough Neagh. Clounacnoise (the meadow of the son of Nois.) was founded by Ciarn in 548. About the same time the island of Hy was given to Columba by Conal, 6th King of British Dalaraida. Hy, the modern Iona, off the Mull of Ros, has been long famous for its ecclesiastical ruins, those at present to be seen, however, only date from the 11th century. Among the interesting objects of antiquity, it contains the grave of Oran, who, on the first landing of Columba, submitted to a voluntary death, which was supposed in those days to be the means of delivering localities from Druidical influences. To the present day the local names in Iona illustrate the historic transitions through which it has passed—such as Cloah Nam, Druneach, the cemetery of the Druids, Enoc Naingel, the hill of angels, Cabcal Muiri, Mary's, &c. At Iona, in the sixth century, was preserved the famous banner called Brecbannach, which was blessed by Saint Columba, and bequeathed in subsequent ages by kings to the lords abbots of Scottish monasteries. In 1204, it was granted by King William the Lion to the monks of Arbroath, its custodians. In 1420, it was surrendered to Sir Alexander Irvine, of Drum, with the lands of Forgher, and held as a reliquary for many generations.

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The battle of Cill Mosanhog (Rathfarnham) is said to have been fought in October, 919, between Sitruic, the King of the Danes, and Niall

Glundub, or black knee, from his armour, possibly, after the latter had made the great muster of Leth Coinn, or the north of Ireland. Some authorities state the number of kings who fell to be twelve, others fifteen, and with them the greater part of the northern nobles. As usual, the success of the Danes or Danars resulted from the superiority of their arms and armour. *Noa, noa*—now, now—was the cry of the Norsemen when coming into battle. The *Valekyre* were the *Destinies* of the Scandanavian nations—celestial virgins who attended fields of battle in order to carry away the souls of the heroes who fell to *Vallhalla*, the warrior's heaven. They are represented as appearing on winged horses, with manes and tails of fire. The word signifies "choosers of the slain," because they selected for immortality those who had shown most courage. It is supposed that the *Valekyre* typified those meteoric appearances of the heavens which were believed to portend war and tumult. *Sitruic na Inar*, grandson of *Inar* (a Norwegian word, signifying "discord.") *Cualan*, the Irish name of the *Wicklow* mountains.

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The story of Queen *Gormflaith* is one of the most tragic in the ancient history of Ireland, of whom she may be called the female *Lear*. She was the daughter of *Flann Sinna*, and was born in 880. She was betrothed to *Cormac MacCullenan*, the Archbishop King of Munster, whose learning was celebrated in his day, and still testified by his *Glossary*. The marriage, which was, of course, projected before *Cormac* entered the Church, was broken off by her father, who married her to *Cearbal*, King of *Leinster*, who, refusing to pay the tribute to the ruler of *Cashel*, was attacked by *Cormac*. Several battles appear to have been fought. At length, however, *Cearbal* supported by the forces of his father-in-law, *Flann*, encountered the Munster army, led by *Cormac*, at *Bealagh Mughna*, in *Kildare*, where *Cormac* was killed by *Cearbal*, after which *Fiach Mor Ugfadain* cut off his head, A.D., 908, 16th August. A deadly antipathy arose between *Gormflaith* and her husband, *Cearbal*, whom she had seen slaying her former lover. While he lay wounded at *Naas*, he reproached her for the manifestation of her affection, and beat her, on which she fled to her father's court, in *Ulster*, until *Cearbal* was killed by *Half the Dane*, 909. After this she married *Niall Glundub*, who, at the head of the Northern clans, marched into *Leinster*, to avenge her wrongs. The son she had by *Niall* was drowned in *Lough Orbsen* (*Corrib*), and a few lines of a fragment of the lament of *Gormflaith*, who was a poetess as well as queen, are still extant. Subsequently, *Niall* was killed by *Anchleach* at *Cill Mosanhog* (*Rathfarnham*, near *Dublin*), and after a lapse of some years, during which her brother, *Domchadh*, reigned, the Irish sceptre passed from the houses of her father and husband; thus from circumstances only now accountable from the convulsed state of the country and the invasion of the Danes, *Gormflaith*, who was the daughter of a king and the wife of two kings, became a beggar and wanderer. She is said to have died of starvation in 948; but other accounts deny her a fate so hard. An ample account of *Cormac MacCullenan*, of the battle in which he fell, and the affecting incidents which preceded it, is to be found in the *Fragments of Annals*. *Cormac's Glossary*, a dictionary of old Irish words, with derivatives from the Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, is called *Sanasan Chormaic*—a singular and even valuable relic of ancient learning. Among his other works was the *Saltair of Cashel*.

*Fortuatha* is the valley of *Glendalough*, county *Wicklow*. *Biatach* was the name of the person who had the care of the Hospitable houses—free houses for travellers—which were kept up by the old Irish laws, like the *Salhouses* of *Norway*.

*Flin Flan* was the Irish name of King *Alfred*; *Bann*, the *Boyne* river; *Crith Cath Bhuidh*, *Tipperary*; *Sionain*, the *Shannon*; *Magh Breagh*, the plain of *Meath*. The custom of Irish monks lying in lakes as a penance, is mentioned in ancient writings. A considerable city once stood in the valley of *Glendalough*, which was destroyed by the Danes.

According to a tradition preserved in Dugdale, the natives of the Orkneys were converted to Christianity in the eighth century by Ebba, an Irish nun, and her associates. Alluding to the propagandist power of the Irish Church during the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries, Montalembert says—"A characteristic still more distinctive of the Irish monks than even the intellectual development of the Irish nation was the imperious necessity of spreading themselves without; of seeking and carrying knowledge and faith afar, and penetrating into the most distant regions to watch and combat Paganism. The monastic nation became, *par excellence*, the missionary nation. Unwearied navigators, they landed on the most desert islands, they overflowed the Continent with their immigrations, and saw, in incessant vision, a world, known and unknown, to be conquered for Christ."

"At length, however, Vanessa's impatience prevailed, and she ventured on the decisive step of writing to Mrs Johnston herself, requesting to know the nature of that connection. Stella, in reply, informed her of her marriage with the dean; and, full of the highest resentment against Swift for having given another female such a right in him as Miss Vanhomrigh's inquiries implied, she sent to him her rival's letter of interrogatories, and, without seeing him, or awaiting his reply, retired to the house of Mr Ford, near Dublin. Every reader knows the consequence. Swift, in one of those paroxysms of fury to which he was liable, both from temper and disease, rode instantly to Marley Abbey. As he entered the apartment, the sternness of his countenance, which was peculiarly formed to express the fiercer passions, struck the unfortunate Vanessa with such terror, that she could scarce ask whether he would not sit down. He answered her by flinging a letter on the table, and, instantly leaving the house, remounted his horse, and returned to Dublin. When Vanessa opened the packet, she only found her own letter to Stella. It was her death-warrant. She sunk at once under the disappointment of the delayed, yet cherished hopes which had so long sickened her heart, and beneath the unrestrained wrath of him for whose sake she had indulged them."—SCOTT.

"He showed her favourite seat, still called 'Vanessa's Bower.' Three or four trees and some laurels indicate the spot. . . . There were two seats and a rude table within the bower, the opening of which commanded a view of the Liffey. . . . In this sequestered spot, according to the old gardener's account, the dean and Vanessa used often to sit, with books and writing materials on the table before them."—SCOTT.

Those verses were suggested by Thackeray's lecture on Swift. The writer however, by no means accords with the estimate which the great novelist has formed of the gloomy side of the character of the great Dean; an estimate which overlooks the existence of cerebral disease, which in itself is sufficient to account for his eccentricities, and the presumed misanthropy manifested during the latter years, of the most powerful genius for satirical *Humour* of which we have record in literature.

#### A LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL OF THE LIBERTY.

Judging from internal evidence, we should say that the following singular fragment (whose author is, unhappily, unknown), was composed in the year 1855, or thereabouts. The reader will gather that, in the fragmentary monologue which ensues, the last of the race of civic troubadours delivers an extemporary elegy on the last days of the National Institution. The piece is much injured by time, like many of the Classic compositions of antiquity; but the value of such fragments as have been fortuitously preserved, like the leaves of the sybil, is but in-

creased by the fact of their embodying the departing breath of an expired inspiration.

*Hic multa desunt.*—The bard, having completed his composition, assembles the minstrels of the locality, who were accustomed to vocalize his rhapsodies.

The animus of the national bard against the harmonious emigrants of the Sunny South is strongly evidenced in this paragraph.

Here another *hiatus* occurs in the MS.; nor can we by the most careful search recover the remainder of the bard's invocation and address to the Coombe Rhapsodists. Thus, while the list of singers will recall to the recollection of Classical readers the catalogue of ships in the Iliad, the fate of the remainder of this precious fragment is alike Classical, from its resembling that of the lost books of Livy. A couple of verses, putatively by another hand, descriptive of the fading glories of the great festival, Donnybrook Fair, under the new civic administration, is all that has been recovered from the remorseless waves of time. If the following is the first verse, the author, like epists generally, plunges *in medias res*.

In the refrain of this fragmentary song, which indicates the new phase into which the national festival had passed, it is gratifying to find the author's allusion to Celtic nature being true to itself in the absence of the stimulant to which much of its gaiety and wit were once erroneously attributable. The influence of popular drinks on a nation has, we regret to say, been quite overlooked by historians. We hope, however, the day is not distant when some illustrious genius will treat the history of Ireland from this point of view, drawing pictures of its inhabitants during the usquebaugh, claret, illicit still, and whisky epochs, down to the present XX porter period, when a more temperate and solid tone of public feeling, in alliance with not a few symptoms of awakening prosperity, are observable. It occurs to us to suggest that this is the point of view from which general history should be written, if its grave authors would place this class of composition on a really scientific basis. That it is the only principle on which a good history of Ireland can be produced we have no doubt.





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